



**An External Review
of the
Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade
(ARTNeT - Phase I)**

by

Supperamaniam Manickam*

3 July 2007

About the author:

* Supperamaniam Manickam is a former Ambassador of Malaysia to the WTO (2000-2003) and Advisor to the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturer who had been involved in trade and investment policy making and negotiations in Malaysia and ASEAN for well over a decade prior to that appointment. Since his retirement from civil service, he has served as expert and advisor in various trade-related regional and global events and projects, facilitating the development of linkages between Governments, the research community and civil society in general. He most recently participated in the review of technical assistance programmes of WTO and UNCTAD.

*The opinions presented here are the responsibility of the author and should not necessarily be considered as reflecting the views or carrying the endorsement of the United Nations, or any other ARTNeT members or partners.

Table of Content

Executive Summary	4
Chapter 1: An Overview of ARTNeT	7
1. Background	7
2. Key organizational features and mechanisms	8
3. Substantive outputs	8
Chapter 2: Evaluation Purpose and Methodology	10
1. Purpose and scope of the evaluation	10
2. Methodology	11
Review and analysis of existing ARTNeT documents	11
Email surveys and interviews of ARTNeT beneficiaries.....	11
Consultations with other ARTNeT stakeholders	11
Chapter 3: Document Analysis and Survey and Interview Results	13
1. Progress toward objective A: “New high quality and demand driven studies on trade issues are available”	13
Document analysis	13
Findings from survey and interviews.....	14
2. Progress toward objective B: “Communication and dissemination of research study results of research institutions to policy makers improved”	15
Document Analysis	15
Findings from survey and interviews.....	16
3. Progress toward Objective C: “Capacity of LDC research institutions to conduct trade-related research useful to policy makers has increased”	18
Document Analysis	19
Findings from survey and interviews.....	19
4. Progress toward ARTNeT mid-term and long-term goals.....	22
Strength to build upon and Areas for improvements	24
Chapter 4: Implications and Recommendations for Phase II.....	26
1. Recommendations on ARTNeT Strategy and Structure	26
Distinguish between capacity building and dissemination activities.....	26
Refine and Adapt Network Structure.....	26
Strengthen cooperation with relevant regional (and subregional) initiatives	27
Enhance ARTNeT Long-term Sustainability.....	27
Strengthen ARTNeT Communication with all Stakeholders.....	28
Secure Additional Funding	28
2. Recommendations related to Objective A: “New high quality and demand driven studies on trade issues are available”	29
Ensure the research programme remains demand driven	29
Build on Phase I outputs	29
Sharpen focus and regional scope of research efforts.....	29
3. Recommendations related to Objective B: “Communication and dissemination of research study results of research institutions to policy makers improved”	30
Design Consultative Meetings as high profile consultations	30
Increase national level dissemination of results.....	31
Maximize impact of working papers	31
4. Recommendations related to Objective C: “Capacity of LDC research institutions to conduct trade-related research useful to policy makers has increased”	32

Build on the success of the first three capacity building workshops	32
Strengthen the link between capacity building activities and the research programme	32
Build capacity of government officials as well.....	32
Annex 1: Logical Framework	33
Annex 2: List of Documents Reviewed	36
Annex 3-A: Questionnaire for Research Institutions Members of ARTNeT	37
Annex 3-B: Questionnaire for Individual Researchers	45
Annex 3-C: Questionnaire for Government Focal Points and Officials	48
Annex 4: ARTNeT Field Visits Programmes	51
Field Visit to India	51
Field Visit to Nepal	54
Field Visit to Philippines.....	56
Annex 5: Member and Researcher Surveys – Summary of Comments.....	58
Comments from Member Research Institutions	58
Comments from Individual Researchers	68
Annex 6: ARTNeT Field Visits – Main Feedback and Suggestions	81
India	81
Nepal	82
Philippines.....	83

Executive Summary

The Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade (ARTNeT) was launched in October 2004, as a joint initiative of UNESCAP and IDRC, Canada, and in cooperation with ten leading national-level research institutions in Asia-Pacific. ARTNeT Phase I (2004-07) aimed to increase the amount of quality and relevant “homegrown” research in developing countries of the region to enable policy makers to make informed decisions on increasingly complex trade policy issues. Progress toward this goal was to be achieved through (1) producing new high quality and demand driven studies on trade issues [objective A], (2) improving communication and dissemination of research study results of research institutions to policy makers [objective B], and (3) increasing capacity of LDC research institutions to conduct trade-related policy research [objective C]. As of April 2007, ARTNeT is a regional network of 20 member research institutions and 4 core partners (IDRC, WTO, UNDP and UNCTAD). UNESCAP provides the Secretariat of the Network and facilitate communications between members, partners and governments through their focal points (see Chapter 1 for details).

The purpose of the external review presented in this report was to examine the operation and outputs of ARTNeT since its launch, in order to derive implications and recommendations for ARTNeT Phase II, tentatively expected to begin in September 2007. Extensive feedback from ARTNeT beneficiaries (research institutions, individual researchers, and governments) was collected through surveys and field visits to arrive at the conclusions and recommendations in this report (see Chapter 2 for details).

The review reveals that ARTNeT has made significant progress toward its three objectives, generally exceeding the targets set out in the initial project documents (see Chapter 3 and/or table 7 for details). The network has grown quickly and steadily and its work appears to be gaining recognition – A particularly striking, albeit very imperfect, indicator of this achievement is the number of online visits to the ARTNeT publication directory, which grew by 360% between April 2006 and April 2007.

The initial project design was found successful in making progress towards objectives, particularly in the area of capacity building and in the implementation of a policy relevant demand-driven research programme. Therefore, no dramatic changes or overhaul is proposed. A list of recommendations addressing various aspects of the network operations and activities follows.

At the strategic level, for Phase II (2007-10, tentatively), it is recommended to:

- Make a clearer distinction between capacity-building activities and high-quality research generation and dissemination activities, so as to ensure that ARTNeT builds a world-class reputation in delivering quality research outputs, which in turn can be expected to facilitate access to additional resources for capacity building (in terms of both funding and expertise).
- Involve more stakeholders other than research/academic institutions and policymakers in ARTNeT - although they may not be given membership. Include civil society, private sector and the media in ARTNeT activities, particularly in dissemination activities. A core group of strategic partners might be considered for dissemination of ARTNeT outputs to and through these stakeholder groups (e.g., GMS Business Forum, SAWTEE, ISEAS).
- More explicitly distinguish between institutions in LDC or low-income developing countries and institutions in other developing countries, particularly if the financial resources of the network remain limited. This would address the need to build a strong core of trade and investment research institutions in LDCs, supported by institutions with higher trade research capac-

ity in more advanced countries. A strong focus on LDC and small low-income countries remains needed as they tend to be excluded from some related regional initiatives (e.g., South Asian LDCs in East Asia Economic Research Institute).

- Expand linkages with regional institutions and initiatives, following the model of ARTNeT collaboration with UNDP Regional Centre in Colombo in Phase I. In that respect, the Asian Development Bank and the ADB Institute are natural ARTNeT partners and ESCAP and ADB both have a responsibility to cooperate. The collaboration and participation of sub-regional “track two” representatives as well as subregional and development research networks in ARTNeT events should also be sought (e.g., invite presentations of relevant trade and investment related outputs by the South Asian Research Network or East Asian Development Network).
- Identify one focal point research institution in each country responsible to disseminate the information to relevant stakeholders in the country. This should not necessarily prevent other institutions in a country to become member of ARTNeT. Enforce the rule that all ARTNeT members website and consider requesting that all member and partner institutions maintain an ARTNeT page on their website [content to be provided by the Secretariat] with links to relevant ARTNeT resources and to other members.
- Award ARTNeT Fellows titles to selected trade and investment researchers in member research institutions that are consistently contributing quality research outputs to ARTNeT. As a reward, ARTNeT fellows could receive a travel grant to disseminate ARTNeT-related research outputs at relevant events, or to collect primary data for research.
- Secure additional funds from existing donors / core partners and take steps, possibly as part of implementation of phase II, to involve one more major multi-year donor (more if geographic scope of ARTNeT is to be extended to all ESCAP membership), to increase long-term sustainability of the network as well as to address members and researchers concerns about the size/amount of research grants. A joint fund raising communication strategy, involving all existing ARTNeT core partners, may be developed.
- Establish one or a small number of ARTNeT Cells in collaboration with selected LDC institutions on a pilot basis. These cells could take the responsibility for coordinating and managing regional research projects on a specific set of trade & investment issues; they would also play an important role in terms of dissemination but also particularly in terms of fund raising, as there may be some limitations to the role a substantive division of ESCAP may play in fund raising.

In terms of producing high quality policy relevant research studies, it will be important to:

- Ensure the research programme remains demand driven. In particular, continue to develop and update ARTNeT research programme based on ARTNeT Trade Research Priority Surveys of Government, Research Institutions and Partners as well as on priorities identified through consultative meetings. This appears to be quite important in ensuring ARTNeT can influence policy making, as some government focal points expressed concerns that donors should continue not to unduly influence the content of the research programme.
- Build on Phase I outputs, i.e., retain trade facilitation related issues as one of the focus areas in Phase II.
- Sharpen focus and regional scope of research efforts, i.e., identify no more than three thematic areas in which multi-year regional studies (of larger scale than in Phase I) will be conducted.
- Limit eligibility requirements for short-term studies to junior researchers or/and to countries where trade research funding and capacity is particularly limited; and consider establishment of a separate mechanism for seed funding of short-term research studies (about US\$1,000) tar-

getting junior researchers in LDCs, particularly graduate students in member academic institutions to be supervised by a local expert or faculty. [see chapter IV for more details]

In terms of improving communication and dissemination of research to governments, ARTNeT may:

- Design consultative meeting as high profile thematic expert meetings and dissemination events, with participation of ARTNeT researchers as well as other relevant experts and stakeholders (from other international organizations, civil society and private sector), including the media.
- Increase national level dissemination of results – this should be delegated to member institutions – one member in each country - to the extent possible, in coordination with the Government focal point. ARTNeT Secretariat could supply limited financial support, on request, for national-level dissemination meetings of ARTNeT outputs.
- Issue more, and more systematically, policy briefs or notes; maximize impact of working papers; and consider ways to support publication of more working papers in books and peer-reviewed or policy journals.
- Increase efforts to systematically transform ARTNeT research outputs, not only into inputs for policy makers (e.g., policy briefs), but also into inputs for technical assistance and training programmes targeting government officials and policy makers – e.g., the work of ARTNeT related to the WTO trade facilitation negotiations in Phase I is being used in the WTO Regional Trade Policy Course for policy makers. [see chapter IV for more details]

In terms of improving capacity of LDC research institutions to conduct trade-related research, ARTNeT may:

- Build on the success of the first three capacity building workshops by inviting promising participants to earlier workshop as resource persons; and organize follow-up workshops as an incentive for participants to apply techniques learned and to present their results.
- Revisit and strengthen the ARTNeT visiting fellowship scheme to embed them in short-term research project (submitted by a host institution) or in regional studies (junior team members from LDCs visiting more senior ones in more advanced institutions).
- Build capacity of government officials as well, either through special short-course on trade policy research project design and management or through inviting them to attend relevant sessions of the trade research capacity building workshops for junior researchers - this would contribute to increasing interactions between policy makers and researchers. [see chapter IV for more details]

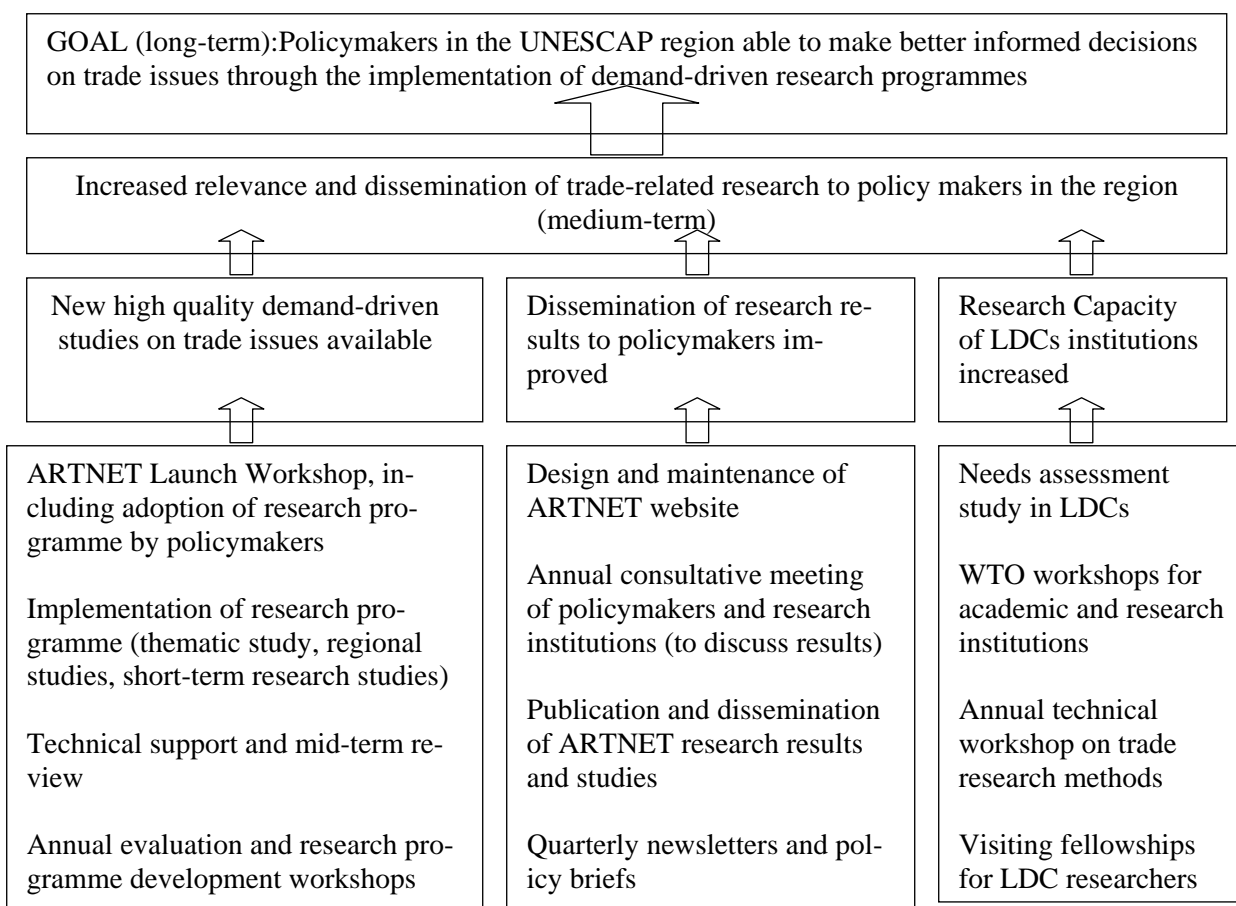
The success of this first Phase may generally be attributed to the following factors: the clear commitment of ESCAP (and its membership) to this initiative, the enthusiastic and self-less contribution of selected ARTNeT members, advisors and individual researchers; and the fact that ARTNeT was able to attract a number of strategic core partners (WTO, UNDP and UNCTAD) shortly after it was launched. Continuous commitment from the various ARTNeT actors will remain crucial in Phase II.

Chapter 1: An Overview of ARTNeT

1. Background

In April 2004, developing countries in Asia and the Pacific explicitly expressed support for the establishment of a research network on trade to equip the region with a mechanism for enhancing the capacity of research institutions to deliver high-quality and demand driven studies on trade issues of importance to policymakers. Indeed, given the increasing complexity of the international trade environment, and the new trading relations that are emerging, policymakers in the UNESCAP region face a growing need for rigorous analysis. This requires more effective institutions able to deliver theoretically consistent research and empirical analytical studies that will lead to an enhanced economic basis for trade policy decision-making.

ARTNET Project Overview



Source: ARTNeT Secretariat

Consequently, UNESCAP, in cooperation with IDRC, Canada and ten leading national-level research institutions in Asia-Pacific, therefore launched the Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade (ARTNeT) in October 2004. ARTNeT aims to increase the amount of quality and relevant trade research in the region by harnessing the research capacity already available and developing additional capacity through regional team research projects, enhanced research dissemination mecha-

nisms, increased interactions between policymakers and researchers, and specific capacity building activities catering to researchers and research institutions from least developed countries.

2. Key organizational features and mechanisms

As of April 2007, based on information contained on the ARTNeT website at www.artnetontrade.org, the network has 20 members, 4 core partners (IDRC, WTO, UNDP and UNCTAD), and 7 associate partners. UNESCAP Trade and Investment Division provides the Secretariat of the network and coordinates all its activities. The Secretariat is advised by an Institutional Advisory Board (IAB) composed of the initial 10 research institution founding members of ARTNeT. Three permanent advisors for research and a number of advisers experts in specific subfields (e.g., trade facilitation, trade in services, trade in agriculture) also advise the Secretariat in terms of research programme direction as well as during implementation.

The Secretariat coordinates activities through focal points in each of the member and partner institutions, as well as through nominated government focal points to ARTNeT (typically, in the ministries in charge of trade).

The research programme is updated annually on the basis of a Trade Research Priority Survey of all focal points and advisors. Once the research programme is agreed upon, call for proposals are issued publicly on the ARTNeT website. Proposals received are evaluated by the Secretariat and advisors according to pre-determined criteria listed in the calls. A Review Board consisting of 4 senior government officials from developing countries has been established to provide feedback and comments on research proposals received from research institutions in the region before they are selected for funding, to ensure policy relevance of the studies.

Communications with the IAB and advisers are mainly via email. Newsletters are issued every semester to update all focal points and other interested individuals of ARTNeT recent and upcoming activities. In addition, “ARTNeT updates” emails are sent on an ad-hoc basis to announce new publications and events in a timelier manner. One consultative meeting of policymakers and research institutions is held annually to present and discuss ARTNeT research outputs and to agree on an updated research programme. This is also an occasion for the IAB and the advisers to meet and discuss issues that may have arisen during the year.

3. Substantive outputs

Based on the information and publications available on its website as of April 2007, ARTNeT has produced a total of 33 working papers and 11 policy briefs, as well as one book (on WTO trade facilitation negotiations), published by ESCAP. Two more books (on agricultural trade liberalization and trade facilitation, respectively) are to be released by August 2007, one of them as a joint publication of ESCAP and UNDP. In addition, four ARTNeT papers have been published in various issues of the Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Review, a peer-reviewed publication managed by ESCAP Trade and Investment Division.

ARTNeT events organized since it was launched have included consultative meetings of policy makers and research institutions, research team meetings for small groups of researcher involved in specific thematic or regional studies, and technical capacity building workshops on trade research

catering mainly to junior researchers from member institutions (See table 1). ARTNeT sessions were also organized in specific WTO/ESCAP seminars for negotiators and policy makers to enhance dissemination and networking among policy makers. Table 1, updated from ESCAP's internal evaluation of ARTNeT, shows that many of the ARTNeT events have received financial support from core partners other than IDRC.

Table 1 – List of ARTNeT events held from October 2004 to April 2007

Launch of the regional network and First Consultative Meeting of ARTNET Research Institutions and Policy Makers, 27-29 October 2004
ARTNeT Capacity Building for Trade Research, 22-25 March 2005 (4 day training workshop organized by UNESCAP in cooperation with UNCTAD and the WTO and attended by 20 junior researchers from 14 research institutions in the region)
ARTNeT Trade Facilitation Research Team Meeting (25-27 May 2005)
ARTNeT Research Team Meeting on Agricultural Trade Liberalization, 8-9 August 2005, Colombo, Sri Lanka
High-Level Government-Business Dialogue on Trade and Development, Second Consultative Meeting of Policy Makers and Research Institutions, ARTNeT Institutional Advisory Board Meeting, Macao, China (4-7 October 2005)
UNDP/ESCAP ARTNeT Trade Facilitation Research Team Meeting, 15 March 2006 [co-funded by UNDP Regional Centre at 90% level]
WTO/ESCAP ARTNeT Regional Seminar on WTO Agriculture Negotiations for Asia-Pacific Economies, 29-31 March 2006 [co-funded by WTO at the 75% level]
Second ARTNeT Capacity Building Workshop for Trade Research, 17-21 April 2006 [co-funded by WTO at the 75% level]
ARTNeT Services Trade Liberalization Research Team Meeting, 5 June 2006
UNDP/ESCAP ARTNeT Consultative Meeting on Trade Facilitation and Regional Integration, 17-18 August 2006 [co-funded by UNDP Regional Centre at 100% level]
WTO/ESCAP/ARTNeT Advanced Regional Seminar on Multilateral Negotiations in Services for Asian and Pacific Economies, Kolkata, India (19-21 September 2006) [co-funded by WTO at the 50% level]
Third ARTNeT Annual Consultative Meeting of Policymakers and research institutions; Meeting of ARTNeT Institutional Advisory Board Members, Macao, China (1-2 November 2006) [co-funded by Government of Macao at 25% level]
Third ARTNeT Capacity Building for Trade Research, 26-30 March 2007 [co-funded by WTO at the 75% level]

Chapter 2: Evaluation Purpose and Methodology

1. Purpose and scope of the evaluation

The purpose of the evaluation was to review the operation and outputs of ARTNeT since its launch (October 2004 – March 2007) in order to derive concrete and detailed implications and recommendations for ARTNeT Phase II, tentatively expected to begin in September 2007.

The scope of the evaluation is limited to substantive issues focusing on project outcomes/outputs, as well as on process issues focusing on the organization and coordination of the network and its activities. Financial aspects of the project are not covered, although questions related to the amount and availability of funds were asked when relevant to a relevant substantive/managerial issue.

This evaluation covered the three strategic areas of work of ARTNeT: trade research programme design and implementation; dissemination of research to policymakers and trade officials (including networking between policymakers, officials and researchers), and trade research capacity building. It is based on the Logical Framework included in the initial ARTNeT project document (see Annex 1).

Following this framework, the evaluation sought answers to the following broad questions, inter alia:

- To what extent was the initial project design and implementation successful in making progress toward Objective A: *New high quality and demand-driven studies on trade issues are available?*
 - How effective has been the system of competitive proposal calls vis-à-vis directed research (demand side) for the network program and trade policy development?
- To what extent was the initial project design and implementation successful in making progress toward Objective B: *Communication and dissemination of research study results of research institutions to policy makers improved?*
 - To what extent has ARTNeT enhanced interactions among research institutions in the region; and between research institutions and government officials?
 - Which dissemination activities/tools are found most useful by policy makers?
- To what extent was the initial project design and implementation successful in making progress toward Objective C: *Capacity of LDC research institutions to conduct trade-related research useful to policy makers has increased?*
 - To what extent does participation in ARTNeT activities enhance researchers' credibility in advising governments on trade and investment issues?
- To what extent has ARTNeT contributed to increasing the quantity, quality, relevance and dissemination of trade-related research of participating research institutions?
 - Does participation in ARTNeT enhance its members' influence on national or regional level policies and practices?
- To what extent are ARTNeT activities and outputs useful to policymakers in the UNESCAP region to enhance their capacity to make better informed decisions on trade issues?
- What are the relative strengths of ARTNeT?
- What aspects of ARTNeT may need improvement in Phase II?

The methodology implemented to answer the above questions is presented in the next section. Results are discussed in Chapter 3. Implications and recommendations are in Chapter 4.

2. Methodology

The evaluation is conducted using a combination of desk review of existing ARTNeT documents, email surveys and field visits.

Review and analysis of existing ARTNeT documents

The documents provided by ESCAP, as Secretariat to ARTNeT, are listed in Annex 2. The Logical Framework attached to the ARTNeT project document, which contains details of activities, outcomes and criteria for evaluation, have been matched against the information available in other documents and on the ARTNeT and ESCAP websites to form an initial assessment of the extent to which planned activities and goals have been attained.

Email surveys and interviews of ARTNeT beneficiaries

Two distinct groups of beneficiaries may be identified in ARTNeT:

- National-level research institutions (generally ARTNeT Members) and their researchers;
- Trade policymakers and government officials;

Information and feedback from the two groups was collected via email surveys. Three distinct survey instruments were developed as follows:

- Survey of representative of member research institution (see Annex 3-A) – This questionnaire was sent only to ARTNeT Member focal points and focused on project impact at the institutional level as well as on institutional commitment and needs of members.
- Survey of individual researchers involved in ARTNeT activities. (See Annex 3-B) – This questionnaire focused on project impact at both the individual and institutional level.
- Survey of government focal points and officials involved in ARTNeT activities (See Annex 3-C)

In addition to email surveys, face-to-face interviews of research institutions and government officials were conducted in India, Nepal and the Philippines - Programmes of the field visits are in Annex 4. The external evaluator was accompanied by a staff from the ESCAP Trade and Investment Division.

Consultations with other ARTNeT stakeholders

The review focused mainly on collecting views from the beneficiaries mentioned above. However, in an effort to make this review process as open and transparent as possible, and to further enrich the data on which recommendations for Phase II may be based, an invitation to all members, partners and other stakeholders to send comments, feedback and suggestions on ARTNeT to the external re-

viewer was published in the *ARTNeT Newsletter* (Jan-April 2007). Views and information from the ARTNeT Secretariat (ESCAP), as well as, to a limited extent, selected participating partner focal points, were also collected during the Third ARTNeT Workshop for Trade Research (26-30 March 2007).

Chapter 3: Document Analysis and Survey and Interview Results

The overall results of the document analysis and of the surveys and interviews suggest that ARTNeT has made significant progress toward its three objectives, generally exceeding the targets set out in the initial project documents (e.g., see table 7 in this chapter). The network has grown quickly and steadily and its work appears to be gaining recognition – A particularly striking, albeit very imperfect, indicator of this achievement is the number of online visits to the ARTNeT publication directory, which grew by 360% between April 2006 and April 2007.

This chapter discusses findings from document analysis and survey and interviews related to each of three ARTNeT objectives, followed by findings related to the medium and long-term ARTNeT goals. Results on strengths and weaknesses of ARTNeT are presented in the last section of this chapter. Comments and feedback collected through surveys and during field visits are summarized in Annex 5 and 6.

1. Progress toward objective A: “New high quality and demand driven studies on trade issues are available”

To fulfill this objective, a research programme approved by both the research institutions and government officials was to be implemented, and technical support provided.

Document analysis

A total of 33 working papers were available from ARTNeT website as of April 2007. Six working papers had been edited and published as a United Nations publication in the ESCAP Trade Investment Studies Series, and another four were published in the Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Review. No detailed record of how many of the working papers were published in peer-reviewed or professional journals or publications was available from the Secretariat, but the Secretariat indicated that at least another five working papers had been published by member research institutions themselves (as discussion papers or books). The Secretariat also indicated that six working papers on agricultural trade liberalization had been edited and compiled into a United Nations publication entitled “Agricultural Trade: Planting the Seeds of Regional Liberalization in Asia” to be released in June 2007. Another set of ARTNeT working papers were being edited for joint publication by UNDP and ESCAP in August 2007.

While it is difficult to assess the extent to which individual studies were demand-driven through document analysis, all studies do relate to priority areas and topics identified in the ARTNeT research programmes approved during the various consultative meetings of policy makers and research institutions. In terms of quality, the fact that some of the ARTNeT trade facilitation studies have been listed as suggested reading on the WTO and the World Bank research group websites, as well as published as United Nations publications, suggest that an adequate level of quality and relevance was achieved, taking into account the capacity building objectives of the initiative. That being said, technical reviews of specific papers by external reviewers/advisors, suggest that the quality of papers vary significantly across papers. The Secretariat confirmed this and indicated that, so as not to undermine the credibility of ARTNeT outputs, a few of the papers were not issued as working paper as there overall quality was deemed too low.

The surveys of participating policy makers and government officials conducted by the Secretariat at the end of every ARTNeT consultative meetings suggest that ARTNeT research outputs are found “useful”¹ by 75 to 100% of them depending on the meeting. Usefulness ratings typically exceeded the target specified in the initial project document (75%).

Findings from survey and interviews

All active member respondents² indicate that ARTNeT contributed to maintaining or increasing their delivery of trade-related research, at least to some extent. More than 40% indicate that ARTNeT has contributed to this to a significant or a great extent.

Table 2 – Member survey results on Research Programme Implementation*

11.a has your institution’s involvement in ARTNeT contributed to maintaining or increasing its delivery of trade-related research?			
Yes, to some extent:	60%	Yes, to a great extent:	10%
		Yes, to a significant extent:	30%
12. How do you evaluate the overall quality of the research output of ARTNeT so far?			
Acceptable:	40%	High:	40%
		Very high:	20%
13. ARTNeT research has been implemented on the basis of “competitive” calls for proposals based on a relatively open research programme framework. How effective has been this system in meeting the objectives of ARTNeT and for trade policy development (as opposed to a more directed research system)?			
Somewhat effective:	22%	Effective:	56%
		Very effective:	22%
14. If your institute has not participated, or only on a very limited basis, in the call for proposals and overall ARTNeT research programme implementation, please explain what prevented a more active participation (please check all that apply)			
Lack of adequate human resources:	44%		
Amount of grants too low:	56%		
15. The research programme in ARTNeT Phase I consisted of (1) a multi-year thematic study focusing on trade facilitation, (2) two regional research studies, and (3) a number of short-term studies. Should the same approach be taken in the Phase II?			
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	50%	<input type="checkbox"/> No	50%

*Only choices selected by at least one respondent are shown. Please refer to the Annex for details of scales used.

In terms of quality, members find the research output of ARTNeT to be at least acceptable, with 50% of respondents describing it as high or very high quality. The policy briefs and the trade facilitation study were cited as particularly high quality and relevant outputs.

¹ A 4-point scale is used in the Secretariat’s surveys: not useful, somewhat useful, useful, very useful. Thirty eight to sixty six percent of the government officials expected ARTNeT outputs to be “very useful”, depending on the meeting.

² Thirteen member institutions completed the survey, achieving a response rate of 65%. In the discussion of the results, however, only the responses of 11 active members, defined as institutions who participated at least once in implementing an ARTNeT research study in any capacity, are included.

Members found the competitive calls for proposals to be a mostly effective mechanism to implement the research programme. However, to ensure that weaker institutions can participate, some research institutions are calling for more pro-active design [presumably by the Secretariat] of research projects involving both weak and strong institutions with built-in trade research adviser with a strong capacity development role.

Amount of research grants are widely felt to be too low, particularly as it is important for ARTNeT to conduct research based on fieldwork and primary data. The grant amounts are the main reason cited for limited participation in the call for proposals and the non or very limited participation of some members (typically in advanced developing economies) in research programme implementation. In addition to increasing the amount of grants, there seem to be some agreement that the focus of the ARTNeT research programme should be further narrowed down and that emphasis should be put on larger research projects and less on smaller short-term ones. Many researchers interviewed during the field visits also suggest that the duration of studies should also be extended (at least 6 months to a year) to further strengthen the quality of the research output.

2. Progress toward objective B: “Communication and dissemination of research study results of research institutions to policy makers improved”

The initial project document indicated that ARTNeT would be expected to achieve that objective by organizing (three) ARTNeT consultative meetings, publishing research results and studies and developing a website.

Document Analysis

As of April 2007, three meetings have already been held and a fourth is planned for July 2007. Consultative meetings have been found overwhelmingly relevant and useful by participants, with, for example, 93% of the participants to the 2006 ARTNeT Annual Consultative Meeting in Macao, China rating the usefulness and relevance of the meeting as either very good or excellent – no difference was found between government and research institutions participants. These ratings, significantly more positive than the usefulness ratings by government participants of the ARTNeT studies presented, indicate that the face-to-face interactions and networking opportunities offered by these meetings are very much valued by them.

In addition to the working papers and related publications mentioned earlier, ARTNeT has also launched a Policy Brief series with 11 issues as of April 2007. These policy briefs are made available online as well as professionally printed and disseminated to relevant ministries and research institutions in the region.

ARTNeT working papers are now indexed and searchable on major economic research websites (such as IDEAS.org or EconPapers.org) and many have been published and printed. Access statistics to ARTNeT publications, the key indicator listed in the logical framework to assess performance, have shown a very positive trend, with over 11,500 visits to the publication directory during the month of April 2007, compared to 2,500 visits in April 2006. While it may not be the most appropriate benchmark, visits to the ARTNeT publication directory, expressed as a percentage of visits to the ESCAP publication directory of the Trade and Investment Division – both located on the same web server – grew from 4.3% in April 2006 to 10.3% in April 2007. Available data also showed that the

ARTNeT trade facilitation study published by ESCAP in its study series (as No. 57) was viewed online 286 times in April 2007 alone.

The ARTNeT website also features a trade-related publication database with 1,500 searchable links to full-text trade-related studies from ARTNeT member institutions as well as a compendium of ARTNeT members trade-related publications – downloaded 456 times during the month of April.

Findings from survey and interviews

All member respondents agree that ARTNeT contributed to maintaining or increasing dissemination of their research to policymakers and other research institutions (almost 50% say to a significant or great extent), but some research institutions indicate that they are still at the capacity development stage in delivering trade policy relevant studies. Apart from one member institution with regional scope, all members agree that ARTNeT has further enhanced their ability to network and exchange information with both policy makers and other research institutions.

In terms of dissemination, ARTNeT electronic publications, including its trade-related publication database, are found most useful by members. ARTNeT consultative meetings of policymakers and researchers are also consistently rated very useful. Somewhat surprisingly, respondents do not show strong support for participation of ARTNeT researchers in relevant regional and global forum to present their research outputs. One suggestion was for ARTNeT to bring out joint publication with collaborating institutions, as this would benefit both the institutions and ARTNeT as a whole and enhance dissemination.

Overall, however, member survey results suggest that more could be done in this area. One suggestion received to enhance dissemination was to target not only ARTNeT government focal points but also the relevant officers dealing with the issue under research, particularly for participation in the Consultative meetings. At the same time, members should take a more pro-active role in facilitating the dissemination of ARTNeT outputs - About 50% of the institutions recognize that they do not facilitate access to ARTNeT website and resources, which is, according to the membership guideline, the only obligation of an ARTNeT member.

Government officials and focal points who responded to the survey³ indicated that they found the regional consultative meetings very useful. Both the survey and discussions with government officials during field visits also suggested that the policy brief series has been an effective output, with clear indications that they had been used by officials in different countries in drafting government reports or as part of the overall policy making process.

While all government respondents believe that ARTNeT output and activities influence policy making on trade and investment, the extent to which this is true appear to vary significantly depending on countries, with some respondents – typically from large countries – indicating *to some extent*, and others responding – typically from smaller or LDC countries – indicating *to a great extent*. Over 50% of officials agree that ARTNeT activities/outputs are useful to policymakers in the UNESCAP region, particularly those in LDCs, to enhance their capacity to make better informed decisions on trade issues to either a significant or great extent.

³ Fourty three percent of the government ARTNeT focal points and other officials involved in ARTNeT completed the survey.

5. Has your institution's involvement in ARTNeT contributed to maintaining or increasing dissemination of your research to policymakers and other research institutions?

6. Has your institution's involvement in ARTNeT facilitated networking and exchange of information with the following stakeholders *(please check or highlight your answer)*:

a. Electronic/online publications (Newsletter / Updates; e-Working Paper Series)	1.75
b. Paper/CD publications (Policy Briefs Series; Selected regional and short-term studies)	2.23
c. ARTNeT Trade Publication Database (and summary of ARTNeT publications by institutions)	2.16
d. ARTNeT Consultative Meetings of Policymakers and Researchers	2.23
e. Ad-Hoc Presentation of ARTNeT studies at relevant regional and global forum	3.08

17

Table 4 – Government Survey Results

1. Please rate usefulness of the following ARTNeT activities/outputs? <i>(Circle or highlight appropriate number: 1: most useful; 2: very useful; 3: useful; 4: somewhat useful; 5: not useful)</i>	
	Average
a. Policy briefs	2.4
b. Working papers	2.2
c. Regional Consultative Meetings	1.5
d. Regional Training Workshops on Trade Research	2.5
7. How would you describe the usefulness and overall quality of ARTNeT policy briefs?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Useful 40% <input type="checkbox"/> Very useful 60%	
8. How would you rate the usefulness and overall quality of the Consultative meetings of policymakers and research institutions attended?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Useful 20% <input type="checkbox"/> Very useful 60% <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know 20%**	
9. Does ARTNeT, through its output and activities, influence trade and investment policy making in your country?	
Yes, to some extent: 80% Yes, to a great extent: 20%	
10. Has ARTNeT contributed to fostering communications/interactions between the research community and the Government in your country and regionally?	
Yes, to some extent: 100%	
11. Has ARTNeT contributed to building trade and investment research capacity in your country and other developing countries in the region? <i>(please check or highlight one)</i>	
Yes, to some extent: 60% Yes, to a great extent: 20% Don't know: 20%	
12. Has ARTNeT facilitated access / dissemination of “homegrown” trade and investment analysis and studies to trade officials, policymakers and other stakeholders?	
Yes, to some extent: 75% Don't know: 25%	
13. Overall, would you say that ARTNeT activities/outputs are useful to policymakers in the UNESCAP region, particularly those in LDCs to enhance their capacity to make better informed decisions on trade issues?	
Yes, to some extent: 25% Yes, to a great extent: 25%	
Yes, to a significant extent: 25% Don't know: 25%	

*Choices are reported only if at least one respondent selected it – see survey instrument in annex for details of response scales. ** “Don’t know” answers are generally from newly appointed ARTNeT government focal points who did not participate in ARTNeT events.

3. Progress toward Objective C: “Capacity of LDC research institutions to conduct trade-related research useful to policy makers has increased”

To fulfill this objective, ARTNeT was to conduct an assessment of the trade-related needs of research institutions in LDCs of Asia and the Pacific, to organize technical workshops on trade research and to offer visiting fellowships to LDC researchers.

Document Analysis

The assessment study was conducted in 2005 by the Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI, Cambodia), one of the founding member of ARTNeT. It was released as ARTNeT Working Paper No.1 and presented at the first ARTNeT Consultative Meeting in November 2005. A related policy brief was also issued.

As of April 2007, three technical workshops have been organized, each focusing on a different analytical method (partial equilibrium modeling and survey design; gravity modeling; and computable general equilibrium modeling), and targeting junior trade researchers from developing country institutions. All workshops were organized by ESCAP in cooperation with at least one ARTNeT partner, in addition to IDRC, Canada. Feedback from participants has been consistently positive with all participants agreeing that their personal capacity to address trade issues was strengthened and over 80% indicating that their institution would *definitely* make use of their newly acquired knowledge and improved analytical skills.

Only two visiting fellowships were arranged for LDC researchers, while at least three were planned in the initial project design. The Secretariat indicated that they faced significant difficulty in identifying relevant individuals and that experience with the two fellowships awarded so far had been mixed. Indeed, while the recipients indicated that they found the experience very beneficial and that their trade research capacity was strengthened, the research outputs that were ultimately delivered were found to be of limited quality and therefore not released as ARTNeT working papers.

Findings from survey and interviews

All institutional respondents indicate that ARTNeT contributed to building their trade research capacity - 70% say to a significant or a great extent (see table 5). Ninety percent of the individual researchers⁴ further confirm that ARTNeT contributed to their trade research capacity building to a significant or great extent (see table 5).

Over 80% of the institutions that responded indicated that the participation of their staff to the ARTNeT Capacity Building Workshop(s) on Trade Research has been, to a significant or great extent, an effective way to build trade research capacity of their institution. However, survey results also suggest that participation of staffs in ARTNeT research programme implementation equally contributed to capacity building of member institutions in trade research, allowing, in particular, (in-house) knowledge transfer from senior to junior researchers and providing an opportunity/incentive for everyone involved to enhance their knowledge on trade-related issues.

The technical support provided by the ARTNeT Secretariat and ARTNeT Advisors was rated mainly *very useful*, followed by *useful*. Responses received suggested that the ARTNeT Secretariat had been particularly attentive in supporting the LDC institutions during their research effort.

Some institutions, particularly among the more advanced ones, suggested that there may be a role for ARTNeT to provide deeper support in terms of access to data and assistance on advance methodological or statistical issues. In addition, some suggested that more emphasis be placed in find-

⁴ The individual researcher survey was sent by email to 64 individuals, based on list of participants of various ARTNeT events and information on the authors of working papers and policy briefs. A 37.5% response rate was achieved.

ing outlets in internationally refereed journals, possibly through strengthening the review process of intermediary research outputs.

In relation to the capacity building workshops, all respondents suggest they should be continued but some suggest a stricter focus on junior researchers (e.g., by setting an age limit). While some suggest that a participant should not be allowed to participate in a workshop twice in row or more, others suggest that follow-up workshops with the same participants are in fact needed to ensure significant capacity building of the individual. One of the institutions suggested that, in addition to the capacity building workshops, ARTNeT make available a trade research adviser on a medium to long – term basis to LDC institutions.

Very few government officials participated in the technical workshops, as priority was given to junior researchers from member institutions (most of them NGOs). However, officials from trade ministries were sometime invited when no relevant researchers or research institution could be found (e.g., Bhutan and Mongolia). Apart from officials from large countries with an established research capacity (e.g., Russian Federation, whose officials participated regularly on a self-financed basis), the trainings were found too technical for these officials, and there are no evidence that knowledge gained was applied.

On the visiting fellowships, discussions during the field visits suggest that visiting fellowships for LDCs may be an effective way to transfer knowledge across institutions even if research output is not always publishable. Therefore, there were suggestions to strengthen that mechanism by giving more responsibility to the hosting institution in ensuring a relevant output.

Table 5 – Member Survey Results on Trade Research Capacity Building*

1. Has your institution's involvement in ARTNeT contributed to building its trade research capacity? (please check or highlight your answer)			
Yes, to some extent:	10%	Yes, to a significant extent:	70%
		Yes, to a great extent:	20%
2. Did staff(s) from your institution participate in the ARTNeT capacity building workshops on trade research held in 2005, 2006 and 2007? (please check or highlight your answer)			
Yes, to some extent:	28%	Yes, to a significant extent:	28%
		Yes, to a great extent:	45%
2.a If Yes, has the participation of some of your staff in these workshops been an effective way to build trade research capacity of your institution?			
Yes, to some extent:	18%	Yes, to a significant extent:	64%
		Yes, to a great extent:	18%
3.a If staff(s) from your institution participate in the ARTNeT research programme implementation Yes, did their participation in its implementation contributed to building trade research capacity of your institution?			
Yes, to some extent:	18%	Yes, to a significant extent:	64%
		Yes, to a great extent:	18%
3.b How would you describe the technical support provided by the ARTNeT Secretariat and ARTNeT Advisors during implementation of the research project/study?			
Somewhat useful:	33%	Useful:	25%
		Very useful:	42%

*Choices are reported only if at least one respondent selected it – see survey instrument in annex for details of response scales.

Table 6 – Survey Responses from Individual Researchers*

1. Did your participation in this/these activity(ies) contribute to building your capacity in conducting trade and investment research?			
Yes, to some extent:	9.5%	Yes, to a significant extent:	61.5%
		Yes, to a great extent:	29%
2. Did you apply skills acquired through participation in this/these activities to non-ARTNeT research projects?			
No:	5%	Yes, to a significant extent:	35%
Yes, to some extent:	35%	Yes, to a great extent:	25%
3. Did your participation in this/these activities enhanced your ability to participate in, collaborate on, or conduct regional studies (e.g., through acquired contacts in governments and other institutions outside your country of origin during meetings)? Don't know: 5%			
No:	9.5%	Yes, to a great extent:	9.5%
Yes, to some extent:	33%	Yes, to a significant extent:	43%
4. Do you find that participation in this/these activities enhances your credibility in trade and investment at the national/regional level, particularly in advising governments?			
Yes, to some extent:	20%	Yes, to a significant extent:	50%
Don't know:	5%	Yes, to a great extent:	25%

*Choices are reported only if at least one respondent selected it – see survey instrument in annex for details of response scales.

4. Progress toward ARTNeT mid-term and long-term goals

Table 7 provides a summary of ARTNeT goals and objectives, performance indicators and targets set upon project launch and results achieved based on data collected during this evaluation. All results suggest that the project has been effectively implemented, with all targets exceeded. The outcome, or mid-term goal, set out when the project was initiated appears to have been achieved. Significant progress was also made toward ARTNeT long-term goal.

Table 7 - Summary of performance and indicators and related achievements

	Performance indicators / Targets	Achievements / Results
[Goal - long-term] Policy makers in the UNESCAP region, particularly those in LDCs, able to make better informed decisions on trade issues through the implementation of demand-driven research programmes (by RIs.)	75% of participating policy-makers are able to make better informed decisions	[Based on government survey results] 75% of policy makers (100% if excluding <i>Don't know</i> answers) agree that ARTNeT activities and outputs are useful to policymakers in the UNESCAP region to enhance their capacity to make better informed decisions on trade issues (50% agree to a significant or a great extent). All agree that ARTNeT has influenced trade and investment policy making in their country at least to some extent (20% to a great extent)
[Outcome – mid-term] Participating Research institutions (RI) have increased the quantity, quality, relevance, and dissemination of their trade-related research to policy makers in the region.	75% of research institutions and policy makers believe the outcome has been achieved	[Based on member survey results] 100% of institutions indicate ARTNeT contributed to increasing the quantity, quality, relevance and dissemination of their trade-related research at least to some extent (70% to a significant extent).
Objective A: New high quality and demand-driven studies on trade issues are available.	75% of participating policy makers indicate research studies are relevant	[Based on government survey results] 100% of officials find working papers and policy brief at least useful (60% find policy briefs very useful); 75% of officials indicate ARTNeT activities/outputs are useful to policymakers in the UNESCAP region, particularly those in LDCs, to enhance their capacity to make better informed decisions on trade issues (100% when excluding don't know answers);
	Number of research studies delivered by ARTNeT	33 studies released as ARTNeT Working Papers (20 published or to be published by UN); 11 ARTNeT policy briefs published
Objective B: Communication and dissemination of research study results of research institutions to policy makers improved	Number of research studies downloaded	11,500 visits/month to the ARTNeT publication directory (10.3% of the visits to the UN ESCAP TID publication directory); some papers downloaded more than 600 times per month.
Objective C: Capacity of LDC research institutions to conduct trade-related research useful to policy makers has increased.	75% of workshop participants appear to show enhanced capacity to do trade research	[Based on member and individual researcher survey results] 90% of the institutions whose staff(s) attended at least one workshop, and 90% of individual researchers, indicated that participation in ARTNeT contributed to building their trade research capacity to a significant or a great extent. 95% of individual researchers have applied skills acquired through ARTNeT at least to some extent

Strength to build upon and Areas for improvements

The survey of member research institutions suggest that the greatest strength of ARTNeT relative to other networks is the Secretariat support and the related technical support provided by it through its staff and advisors. Capacity building mechanisms, dissemination mechanisms and the fact that it has a demand-driven research programme are also seen as relative strengths by many respondents.

Table 8 – Other Results form Member Survey*

17. What are the strengths of ARTNeT relative to other research networks? (Please select up to 4)

- | | |
|--|--|
| a. Secretariat support 62.5% | b. Links with civil society 12.5% |
| c. Link with Government 75% | e. Amount of funds available 50% |
| f. Technical support 62.5% | g. Dissemination mechanisms 50% |
| h. Capacity building mechanisms 37.5% | i. Demand-driven Research 62.5% |

18. What aspects of ARTNeT may need improvement in Phase II? (Please select up to 4)

- | | |
|---|--|
| a. Secretariat support 12.5% | b. Links with civil society 12.5% |
| c. Link with Government 25% | d. Links with private sector 25% |
| e. Amount of funds available 62.5% | f. Technical support 12.5% |
| g. Dissemination mechanisms 12.5% | |

19. Has your participation in ARTNeT activities or research programme implementation enhanced your influence and impact on national or regional level policies and practices?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Yes, to some extent: 12.5% | Yes, to a significant extent: 50% |
| | Yes, to a great extent: 37.5% |

20. How much resources should be allocated to each of the three strategic objectives of ARTNeT

	Current Allocation	Average proposed allocation:
Research Capacity building	25%	27.5 %
Research programme implementation	40%	43%
Dissemination /Networking	35%	29.5%

*Choices are reported only if at least one respondent selected it – see survey instrument in annex for details of response scales.

While some members already identify links with government as strength of ARTNeT relative to other networks, an equal number also calls for strengthening this link in Phase II. Links with civil society and the private sector are not generally identified as ARTNeT strengths but only limited support exists from members to strengthen these links.

Amount of funds available is the issue identified by most members when asked what aspects of ARTNeT may need improvement. Institutional survey results suggest that no major improvement may be needed in terms of research programme and its demand-driven design process. Members do not identify capacity building mechanisms as a potential area for improvement, but a few would like to see more technical support.

Discussions with government focal point and officials suggest that strengthening the dissemination of outputs may be most important for Phase II, as well as diversifying the number of researchers and research institutions involved. They clearly indicate that effective dissemination at the national level may best be done by local research institutions, suggesting that ESCAP, as the ARTNeT Secretariat, and the government focal points may take supportive but not leading roles in that regard. In addition, officials in some countries appear to be in favor of involving the private sector, particularly in dissemination events, as they often have influence over key policy decision makers.

Chapter 4: Implications and Recommendations for Phase II

The data collected and reviewed during this external evaluation suggests that the initial project design was successful in making progress towards objectives, particularly in the area of capacity building and in the implementation of a policy relevant demand-driven research programme. Therefore, no dramatic changes or overhaul is proposed. A list of recommendations addressing various aspects of the network operations and activities follows.

1. Recommendations on ARTNeT Strategy and Structure

Distinguish between capacity building and dissemination activities

The evaluation results suggest that all stakeholders are satisfied with the three-pronged strategic focus of ARTNeT on trade and investment policy research capacity building, generation and dissemination. While clear synergies exist between the three objectives – and, very importantly, ensure that capacity building activities directly feed into the production of relevant research – , it is recommended that

- clearer distinction should be made between capacity-building activities and high-quality research generation and dissemination activities, so as to ensure that ARTNeT builds a world-class reputation in delivering quality research outputs, which in turn can be expected to facilitate access to additional resources for capacity building (in terms of both funding and expertise).

Refine and Adapt Network Structure

Evaluation results clearly identify the Secretariat as a comparative strength of the network. ARTNeT Secretariat should therefore continue to be hosted by UNESCAP, with adequate donor support, in Phase II (2007-10) – see the section on long-term sustainability for possibilities beyond Phase II. ARTNeT should also remain an open network rather than a closed group, focusing relatively more on becoming an open multi-stakeholder networking and consultative research platform rather than a trade and investment research funding mechanism. At the same time, the following recommendations emerge:

- While stakeholders other than research/academic institutions and policymakers need to be involved, they may not be given membership. Involving them as Associate Partners or under a newly created category or capacity is suggested to ensure the network remains primarily a network of research and academic institutions.
- Consider explicitly distinguishing between institutions in LDC or low-income developing countries and institutions in other developing countries, particularly if the financial resources of the network remain limited. This would address the need to build a strong core of trade and investment research institutions in LDCs, supported by institutions with higher trade research capacity in more advanced countries. In addition, some of the advanced research institutions may actually prefer to be recognized as resource/expertise provider than recipient.

Strengthen cooperation with relevant regional (and subregional) initiatives

The Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade is a unique regional initiative in the following respects, at least regionally: (1) it is an open specialized network – working on trade and investment policy and facilitation issues; (2) it covers multiple sub-regions of Asia and the Pacific; (3) it is a structured research network with a regional inter-governmental institution as its Secretariat and directly supported by global institutions (WTO and UNCTAD); (4) it has a dual mandate of both delivering quality policy relevant research and to build capacity in research, particularly through South-South collaboration among members and in LDCs. At the same time, however, many existing institutions (e.g., ADB) have increased their focus on analytical work in trade related areas (e.g., in relation to regional integration) and some new regional institutions and initiatives are emerging (e.g., the East Asia Economic Research Institute, EAERI, an initiative supported by Japan aiming to create an “East Asian OECD” including Australia, New-Zealand and India), not to mention the work done in “Track twos” of sub regional economic cooperation organizations (e.g., in APEC, ASEAN, and SAARC). In that context, the following recommendations seem appropriate:

- Keep a strong focus on LDC and small low-income countries, which needs support the most and tend to be excluded from some initiatives (e.g., South Asian LDCs in EAERI).
- Strengthen cooperation / seek the collaboration and participation of sub-regional “track two” representatives as well as subregional networks in ARTNeT events – this is already the case as many ARTNeT members are already involved in these “track two” initiatives. For example, invite presentations of relevant trade and investment related outputs by the South Asian Research Network or East Asian Development Network.
- Continue to expand linkages with regional institutions and initiatives, following the model of ARTNeT collaboration with UNDP Regional Centre in Colombo in Phase I. This will also contribute to increasing the sustainability of ARTNeT (see below).

Enhance ARTNeT Long-term Sustainability

Long-term sustainability of the network implies that sources of funding for the network activities become more diversified and/or that selected members and partners institutionalize ARTNeT activities within their programmes of work – as evidenced by various official United Nations documents, ESCAP has already taken steps to integrate ARTNeT in its work programme with the support of ESCAP member governments. In that regards, it is recommended that:

- Continue working with core partners through flexible arrangements, while at the same time ensuring that each core partner visibly supports ARTNeT. A small but concrete step in that sense would be the development of an ARTNeT page (linking to the ARTNeT website) on the websites of all core partners and regular participation of core partner representatives in ARTNeT events. Organizing annual ARTNeT partner (and donor) meetings on the side of a consultative meeting should also be considered.
- Additional core partners and donors be identified. In that respect, the Asian Development Bank and the ADB Institute are natural ARTNeT partners and ESCAP and ADB both have a responsibility to cooperate.

In the medium to long-term, the current ARTNeT Secretariat may gradually decentralize some of its activities and delegate them to ARTNeT Cells that may be established at some member institutions. These cells could take the responsibility for coordinating and managing regional research projects on a specific set of trade & investment issues; they would also play an important role in terms of dissemination but also particularly in terms of fund raising, as there may be some limitations to the role a substantive division of ESCAP may play in fund raising. As a core objective of ARTNeT is ca-

capacity building, particularly in LDCs, the cells should be preferably established in emerging LDC research institutions – another possibility would be to establish cells based on specific areas of expertise of host institution, or on ability to secure South-south technical cooperation fund to support the cell activities. One recommendation for Phase II would therefore be to:

- Establish one or a small number of ARTNeT Cells in collaboration with selected LDC institutions on a pilot basis

Strengthen ARTNeT Communication with all Stakeholders

A number of stakeholders from both government and research institutions indicated that ARTNeT's work is not getting due recognition or exposure, limiting the impact of its output and prospect for growth and sustainability. Successful communication in Phase II would require the involvement and support of all members and partners. At the strategic level, the following actions/changes may be considered to tackle this issue:

- Enforce the rule that all ARTNeT members website and consider requesting that all member and partner institutions to maintain an ARTNeT page on their website [content to be provided by the Secretariat] with links to relevant ARTNeT resources and to other members.
- Identify one focal point research institution in each country responsible to disseminate the information to relevant stakeholders in the country. This should not necessarily prevent other institutions in a country to become member of ARTNeT.
- Include civil society, private sector and the media in ARTNeT activities, particularly dissemination activities. A core group of strategic partners might be considered for dissemination of ARTNeT outputs to and through these stakeholder groups (e.g., GMS Business Forum, SAWTEE, ISEAS).
- Award ARTNeT Fellows titles to selected trade and investment researchers in member research institutions that are consistently contributing quality research outputs to ARTNeT. As a reward, ARTNeT fellows would receive a travel grant to disseminate ARTNeT-related research outputs at relevant events, or to collect primary data for research.

Secure Additional Funding

ARTNeT progress towards its three challenging objectives is particularly commendable in view of the resource constraints faced by the network. Indeed, the Secretariat interim report to IDRC shows that ARTNeT operated with a budget, including contributions from WTO and UNDP, of about US\$ 300,000 / year, excluding ESCAP in-kind contribution – To put this in perspective, this is only about US\$ 6,500 per member institution (or participating country) per objective per year⁵. For Phase II, it is therefore recommended that:

- Fund raising activities be embedded in the project design, e.g., travel to major events (e.g., Aid for Trade events) and to present ARTNeT to key donors and stakeholders is budgeted.
- Develop a joint fund raising communication strategy, involving all existing ARTNeT core partners. The Secretariat has not taken full advantage of this in Phase I, with most ARTNeT communications being sent by ESCAP alone – a notable exception being the latest version of the brochure, which now includes logos of all core partners.

⁵ Because they believe quite strongly in the ARTNeT concept and its objectives, many advisors and researchers have accepted remunerations for their participation that are often extremely limited.

2. Recommendations related to Objective A: “New high quality and demand driven studies on trade issues are available”

Ensure the research programme remains demand driven

Stakeholders appear generally satisfied of the extent to which the ARTNeT research programme has been demand-driven, while leaving enough scope for the delivery of forward thinking research and analysis with no immediate implications for (sectoral) policymakers. At the same time, if linkages with policy makers are to be enhanced, there is a need to ensure that they are more closely involved in selecting research projects and, if possible, involved in the research project themselves. The following recommendations may therefore be made:

- Continue to develop and update ARTNeT research programme based on ARTNeT Trade Research Priority Surveys of Government, Research Institutions and Partners as well as on priorities identified through consultative meetings. This appears to be quite important in ensuring ARTNeT can influence policy making, as some government focal points expressed concerns that donors should continue not to unduly influence the content of the research programme.
- Continue and strengthen the role of the Proposal Review Board made of senior government officials – preferably from LDCs as they should be priority beneficiaries of ARTNeT work.
- Request the research institution / researcher to systematically include a relevant government official as a local team member or as a contact point/adviser for any such study – this could be made a requirement in calls for proposals. Systematically circulating and consulting government focal points before approving any country case study should also be considered.

Build on Phase I outputs

While the evaluation did not focus on identifying priority research areas for Phase II, discussions that took place during the field visits suggest that trade facilitation and trade in trade facilitation related services continue to be an area of major concerns, particularly in LDCs and landlocked countries. At the same time, given the emerging body of work generated by ARTNeT in this area, it is recommended that

- Trade facilitation related issues be retained as one of the focus areas in Phase II.

Sharpen focus and regional scope of research efforts

There is some disagreement among stakeholders on whether the research programme should be modified, in terms of the balance between thematic, long-term and short-term studies. The junior researchers seem to want more individual short-term studies, while research institutions and policy makers seem to be more in favor of larger regional studies, covering more countries for comparative analysis. They also generally call for an even more focused research programme. The following recommendations may therefore be made in this regard:

- Identify no more than three thematic areas in which multi-year regional studies will be conducted. Three areas that seem to emerge from the discussions are: Regional integration issues; Trade facilitation and trade in related services; Trade, Investment and Domestic Policy Coherence. The relevance of the area and the need to continue research in it may be reassessed on an annual basis.
- The regional studies should be well funded as they will generate the outputs to be presented to policymakers at consultative meetings.
- The role of advisors should be revisited, to expand their responsibilities and control over the final product (i.e., team leaders). While expertise in developing country insti-

tutions of the region should always be preferred, the Secretariat should consider being more flexible in engaging team leaders from developed countries, as necessary to enhance final output quality, while not diluting the South-South cooperation principle.

- Research team meetings should be budgeted for, as this was not done in the ARTNeT Phase I project document and all progress reports of that phase point to the importance of these meetings in ensuring higher quality outputs.
- Limit eligibility requirements for short-term studies to junior researchers or/and to countries where trade research funding and capacity is particularly limited. Stand-alone country-level studies other than in LDCs should be prohibited unless findings are expected to be highly relevant to the region.
- Short-term studies involving hosting of researchers should be strongly encouraged – hosting of a junior research in an advanced research institution member, but also hosting of a researcher from an advanced research institution to coach a junior researcher in the weaker institution.
- Consider establishment of a separate mechanism for seed funding of short-term research studies (about US\$1,000) targeting junior researchers in LDCs, particularly graduate students in member academic institutions to be supervised by a local expert or faculty, or possibly by a stronger member institution outside the country. This mechanism could be used to build a larger pool of promising trade researchers, to be later engaged by member institutions in conduction regional studies.
- The competitive call for proposals can be retained for the short-term studies, while an expression of interest mechanism (i.e., not requiring a detailed proposal but establishing various institutions' interest and ability to contribute) could be adopted for the regional study, with the Secretariat and each study Advisor/team leader taking a more pro-active approach in the implementation – as was done during the first year of the Thematic study on Trade Facilitation.

3. Recommendations related to Objective B: “Communication and dissemination of research study results of research institutions to policy makers improved”

While significant achievements were recorded in this area, the information collected during the evaluation suggests that more attention need to be placed on these activities in Phase II, as follows.

Design Consultative Meetings as high profile consultations

While the usefulness, quality and relevance of the consultative meetings was widely acknowledged, end-of-meeting evaluations showed a preference for more focused meetings and some concerns about the ability of some researchers to communicate, in particular with policymakers. Therefore the following recommendations may be made:

- Consultative meetings should be more thematic (i.e. rather than reporting on the entire ARTNeT research programme, as typically done in Phase I). Assuming three themes and regional studies are identified for Phase II, two consultative meetings could be held on each theme (between 2008 and 2010).
- Consultative meetings should be organized as high profile expert meetings and dissemination events, with participation of ARTNeT researchers as well as other relevant experts and stake-

holders (from other international organizations, civil society and private sector), including the media.

- Consultative meetings should not be used as events to build the capacity of presenting researchers – a half day closed door meeting without government officials may be organized back-to-back with these meetings for that purpose.

Increase national level dissemination of results

- Dissemination at the national level should be delegated to member institutions – one member in each country - to the extent possible, in coordination with the Government focal point. ARTNeT Secretariat could supply limited financial support, on request, for national-level dissemination meetings of ARTNeT outputs.
- Continue and strengthen pooling and collection of trade and investment related studies in the region. This again could be best done by a focal point research institution in each country, who would take the responsibility of collecting all the studies being done by all the relevant institutions in its own country – this is done by some members already, such as PIDS. This would respond to the need expressed by some policymakers that there are many studies done even in their country, but they are difficult to access.
- Consider issuing more, and more systematically, policy briefs or notes. The feedback on ARTNeT policy briefs already issued has been positive, with some government officials reporting they used them in their policy work, but additional formats may also be considered, as appropriate, to attract the attention of various levels of bureaucracy - policy drafters, policy advisers, parliamentarians.

Maximize impact of working papers

- The format of the working papers should be made more attractive online, and a few hard copies should be made available to key stakeholders and the author(s) for dissemination.
- Working Papers published in ARTNeT should systematically be published in the relevant publication series of the institution to which the author(s) is affiliated. While this is often the case, this has not been done systematically. Making this a requirement would increase both the quality of the output and institutional commitment of members. In addition, joint publication of ARTNeT outputs should be considered. Indeed, as of now, ARTNeT allows authors and institutions to publish all their outputs in their institutions publications with only a footnote of acknowledgement. This is an effective policy in terms of dissemination of a particular research output, but not in getting ARTNeT recognized or established as a regional research and capacity building platform. Therefore, joint publication mechanism should be developed, were, for example, an output may be published in both the institution series and the ARTNeT series, but identified as a joint publication (with logos of both organization featured on the cover page of both series for that output).
- More emphasis should be put on publishing the working papers in books or journals, including from publishers other than the United Nations. According to the ARTNeT Secretariat and surveys, 9 working papers have been published in UN publications (in 1 book and 1 journal), and another 14 are expected to be before August 2007 (in two books). While some suggested the launch of an ARTNeT journal, it may be better to explore publication in already established journals.
- Efforts should be made to systematically transform the working papers, not only into inputs for policy makers (e.g., policy briefs), but also into inputs for technical assistance and training programmes targeting government officials and policy makers - for example, the work of

ARTNeT related to the WTO trade facilitation negotiations in Phase I is being used in the WTO Regional Trade Policy Course for policy makers.

4. Recommendations related to Objective C: “Capacity of LDC research institutions to conduct trade-related research useful to policy makers has increased”

These activities have arguably received the most positive feedback. The cooperation of ESCAP with UNCTAD in the first year, and with WTO in the last two years in terms of both co-funding and resource persons for the ARTNeT Capacity Building Workshops on Trade Research, has allowed for the delivery of excellent hands-on programmes – I personally attended the 2007 workshop as part of the evaluation. The focus on junior researchers from developing country think tanks, and LDCs in particular, is also innovative in many respects.

Build on the success of the first three capacity building workshops

- Invite promising participants to earlier workshops as resource persons in the next workshop.
- Organize follow-up workshops or provide post-workshop technical support. For example, participants may be invited to conduct research based on the techniques learned during the workshop and to present their results in a follow-up meeting, possibly back-to-back with the next capacity building workshop.
- Consider hosting some of the training workshops in member institutions in LDCs or at institutions willing to host and provide a relevant resource person. The later could be facilitated by tapping South-South Technical Assistance Programmes of potential host countries (India, Malaysia, China).

Strengthen the link between capacity building activities and the research programme

- Revisit and strengthen the ARTNeT visiting fellowship scheme to embed them in short-term research project (submitted by a host institution) or in regional studies (junior team members from LDCs visiting more senior ones in more advanced institutions).
- Similarly, the technical and substantive issues to be covered in the training workshops may be related to the topics of the thematic regional studies, so that participants may contribute to them.

Build capacity of government officials as well

- Develop a short-course for government officials on how to develop research questions and proposals, assess and monitor quality of trade and investment policy research outputs. Interviews with government officials reveal that most do not conduct research, but do contract researchers and research institutions.
- Alternatively, training workshops on trade research could be designed in such a way that government officials could attend part of it, along with the junior researchers. This would not require too many changes to the current practices, as the first part two days of the training workshops held so far appear suitable for both government officials and researchers. This option would allow for increased networking between government officials and researchers.

Annex 1: Logical Framework

<u>Project Title:</u> Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade (ARTNET)		<u>Target Countries:</u> UNESCAP member countries in South Asia, South-East Asia, East Asia, with an emphasis on Least Developed Countries	
<u>Subprogrammes:</u> Trade and Investment	<u>Thematic Focus:</u> Managing Globalization	<u>Starting Date:</u> 15 October 2004	<u>Duration:</u> 37 months (3 year and 1 month)

Objectives & Activities	Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
<u>Project Goal:</u> Policy makers in the UNESCAP region, particularly those in LDCs, able to make better informed decisions on trade issues through the implementation of demand-driven research programmes (by RIs.)	(i) 75% of participating policy makers are able to make better informed decisions	(i) Survey of participating policy makers at the end of the project (37 months) (ii) Independent evaluation (post-project)	
<u>Outcome:</u> Participating Research institutions (RI) have increased the quantity, quality, relevance, and dissemination of their trade-related research to policy makers in the region.	(i) 75% of research institutions (RI) and policy makers believe the outcome has been achieved. (ii) Evidence of increased quantity, quality and relevance of research in selected areas	(i) Survey of participating research institutions at the end of the project (36 months) (ii) Survey of participating policy makers at the end of the project (36 months) (iii) Independent evaluation (post-project)	<u>Assumptions for the Project Goal:</u> (i) Member RI continuous commitment to meeting the needs of policy makers
<u>Output A:</u> New high quality and demand-driven studies on trade issues are available.	(i) 75% of participating policy makers indicate the research studies are relevant	(i) End-of-meeting survey	<u>Assumptions for the Outcome:</u> (i) Research institutions leverage on UNESCAP /

Objectives & Activities	Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
	(ii) number of research studies delivered by ARTNET		ARTNET support to secure additional support for their research programmes
<u>Major Activities A:</u> A.1 Official launch of ARTNET, including workshop. A.2 Implementation of research programme A.3 Technical support and mid term review A.4 Annual evaluation and research programme development workshop			<u>Assumptions for Output A:</u> (i) Countries nominate the relevant policy makers to the meetings
<u>Output B:</u> Communication and dissemination of research study results of research institutions to policy makers improved	(i) Number of research studies downloaded	(i) Online statistics	
<u>Major Activities B:</u> B.1 Design and maintenance of ARTNET website B.2 Annual workshop for policymakers B.3 publication and dissemination of research results/studies B.4 Newsletter and policy briefs			<u>Assumptions for Output B:</u> N/A
<u>Output C:</u> Capacity of LDC research institutions to conduct trade-related research useful to policy makers has increased.	(ii) 75% of workshop participants and research programme participants appear to show enhanced capacity to do trade research	(i) End of meeting and programme surveys	

Objectives & Activities	Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
<u>Major Activities C.</u> C.1 Needs assessment study in LDCs C.2 WTO workshop for academic and re- search institutions C.3 Technical workshop on trade research methods C.4 LDC researcher hosting programme			<u>Assumptions for Output C:</u> (i) Participating researchers from RI do not leave their country or the region

Annex 2: List of Documents Reviewed

1. ARTNeT Project Document/ Grant document
2. Interim Reports to IDRC (annual) and internal progress reports (bi-annual)
3. Internal review of ARTNeT presented to ESCAP Committee on Managing Globalization (CMG)
4. Relevant ESCAP legislative documents related to ARTNeT
 - a. Commission reports 2004-5-6
 - b. CMG and Sub-committee Meeting on Trade and Investment (docs)
5. For all ARTNeT meetings:
 - a. Programmes
 - b. list of participants;
 - c. summary of meeting (when available);
 - d. summary of end-of-workshop evaluations by participants (and associated informal written feedback);
 - e. Other meeting documents released on www.artnetontrade.org
6. ARTNeT research programmes
7. Call for proposals and summary of evaluation of research proposals received
8. List of research team members
9. List of ARTNeT members and partners; membership/partnership guidelines
10. List of Government and other focal points
11. ARTNeT publications, including e-updates, e-newsletters, working papers, and policy briefs
12. Detailed access statistics on ARTNeT website

Annex 3-A: Questionnaire for Research Institutions Members of ARTNeT

Important Guidelines:

- *The purpose of this questionnaire is to evaluate the impact of ARTNeT at the institutional level.*
- *As such, this questionnaire should be filled preferably by the ARTNeT focal point and/or the Executive or Research Director of the Research Institution, with input from staff who participated in ARTNeT activities, as appropriate. Note that researchers who participated in ARTNeT activities will be surveyed separately.*
- *A table summarizing involvement of individuals from your country, including staff(s) from your institution, is attached for your convenience.*

A. Trade Research Capacity Building

1. Has your institution's involvement in ARTNeT contributed to building its trade research capacity? *(please check or highlight your answer)*

☐ No ☐ Yes, to some extent ☐ Yes, to a significant extent ☐ Yes, to a great extent ☐ Don't know

Please elaborate:

2. Did staff(s) from your institution participate in the ARTNeT capacity building workshops on trade research held in 2005, 2006 and 2007? *(please check or highlight your answer)*

☐ No ☐ Yes, in one of them ☐ Yes, in two of them ☐ Yes, in all three

2.a If Yes, has the participation of some of your staff in these workshops been an effective way to build trade research capacity of your institution?

☐ No ☐ Yes, to some extent ☐ Yes, to a significant extent ☐ Yes, to a great extent ☐ Don't know

Please elaborate:

3. Did staff(s) from your institution participate in the ARTNeT research programme implementation (resulting in an ARTNeT working paper or other publication)? ☐ No

☐ Yes

3.a If Yes, did their participation in its implementation contributed to building trade research capacity of your institution?

☐ No ☐ Yes, to some extent ☐ Yes, to a significant extent ☐ Yes, to a great extent ☐ Don't know

Please elaborate:

3.b If Yes, how would you describe the technical support provided by the ARTNeT Secretariat and ARTNeT Advisors during implementation of the research project/study?

☐ Not useful ☐ Somewhat useful ☐ Useful ☐ Very useful

Please elaborate:

4. What kind of capacity building and technical assistance would you like to see in ARTNeT Phase II? *(please answer in the space provided below)*

B. Trade Research Dissemination and Networking

5. Has your institution's involvement in ARTNeT contributed to maintaining or increasing dissemination of your research to policymakers and other research institutions? (please check or highlight your answer)

☐ No ☐ Yes, to some extent ☐ Yes, to a significant extent ☐ Yes, to a great extent ☐ Don't know

Please elaborate:

6. Has your institution's involvement in ARTNeT facilitated networking and exchange of information with the following stakeholders (please check or highlight your answer):

a. With policymakers at the national and/or regional level

☐ No ☐ Yes, to some extent ☐ Yes, to a significant extent ☐ Yes, to a great extent ☐ Don't know

b. With researchers/ research institutions inside your sub-region (e.g., Southeast Asia, South Asia)

☐ No ☐ Yes, to some extent ☐ Yes, to a significant extent ☐ Yes, to a great extent ☐ Don't know

c. With researchers/ res. institutions outside your sub-region (e.g, Southeast Asia, South Asia)

☐ No ☐ Yes, to some extent ☐ Yes, to a significant extent ☐ Yes, to a great extent ☐ Don't know

Please elaborate:

7. How does your institution facilitate access to the ARTNeT website and resources on its own website? (please check or highlight one)

- ☐ It does not facilitate access to ARTNeT website and resources
☐ It provides a direct link to the ARTNeT website on its own website
☐ It provides direct links to the ARTNeT website and to the ARTNeT Trade Publication Database
☐ Other(Please specify) : _____

8. Is the ARTNeT logo featured on your website?

☐ Yes

☐ No

9. How are the electronic ARTNeT Newsletter / ARTNeT updates disseminated within your institution (please check or highlight one)

- ☐ The ARTNeT Newsletter / updates are forwarded to all research staff
☐ The ARTNeT Newsletter / updates are forwarded to all trade & investment research staff
☐ The ARTNeT Newsletter / updates are forwarded on a case by case basis to relevant staff
☐ The ARTNeT Newsletter / ARTNeT updates are not forwarded

10. Please rate usefulness of various dissemination activities/tools which should be emphasized in Phase II (Circle appropriate number: 1: most useful; 2: very useful; 3: useful; 4: somewhat useful; 5: not useful)

a. Electronic/online publications (Newsletter / Updates; e-Working Paper Series)

1 2 3 4 5

- b. Paper/CD publications (Policy Briefs Series; Selected regional and short-term studies)
1 2 3 4 5
- c. ARTNeT Trade Publication Database (and summary of ARTNeT publications by institutions)
1 2 3 4 5
- d. ARTNeT Consultative Meetings of Policymakers and Researchers
1 2 3 4 5
- e. Ad-Hoc Presentation of ARTNeT studies at relevant regional and global forum
1 2 3 4 5
- f. Other (please specify : _____)
1 2 3 4 5

Please elaborate:

C. Trade Research Programme and Implementation

11. Did staff(s) from your institution participate in the ARTNeT research programme implementation (resulting in an ARTNeT working paper or other publication)?

☐ No ☐ Yes

11.a If yes, has your institution's involvement in ARTNeT contributed to maintaining or increasing its delivery of trade-related research?

☐ No ☐ Yes, to some extent ☐ Yes, to a significant extent ☐ Yes, to a great extent ☐ Don't know

Please elaborate:

12. How do you evaluate the overall quality of the research output of ARTNeT so far?

☐ Very high ☐ High ☐ Acceptable ☐ Low ☐ Don't know

Please elaborate:

13. ARTNeT research has been implemented on the basis of "competitive" calls for proposals based on a relatively open research programme framework. How effective has been this system in meeting the objectives of ARTNeT and for trade policy development (as opposed to a more directed research system)?

☐ Very effective ☐ Effective ☐ Somewhat effective ☐ Not effective ☐ Don't know

Please elaborate:

14. If your institute has not participated, or only on a very limited basis, in the call for proposals and overall ARTNeT research programme implementation, please explain what prevented a more active participation (please check all that apply)

- ☐ Lack of adequate human resources
- ☐ Amount of grants too low
- ☐ Trade (& investment) policy and facilitation are not a research priority
- ☐ Others (please specify: _____)

Please elaborate on what could be done to facilitate your participation:

15. The research programme in ARTNeT Phase I consisted of (1) a multi-year thematic study focusing on trade facilitation, (2) two regional research studies, and (3) a number of short-term studies. Should the same approach be taken in the Phase II?

☐ No

☐ Yes

15.a If yes, what should be the focus of the thematic study in Phase II? (*please write below*)

Please elaborate:

D. Other Issues

16. Overall, has ARTNeT contributed to increasing the quantity, quality, relevance and dissemination of your trade-related research.

☐ No ☐ Yes, to some extent ☐ Yes, to a significant extent ☐ Yes, to a great extent ☐ Don't know

Please elaborate:

17. What are the strengths of ARTNeT relative to other research networks? (Please select up to 4)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| a. Secretariat support | b. Links with civil society |
| c. Link with Government | d. Links with private sector |
| e. Amount of funds available | f. Technical support (through Sec. and Advisors) |
| g. Dissemination mechanisms | h. Capacity building mechanisms |
| i. Demand-driven Research Programme | j. Other: _____ |

Please elaborate:

18. What aspects of ARTNeT may need improvement in Phase II? (Please select up to 4)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| a. Secretariat support | b. Links with civil society |
| c. Link with Government | d. Links with private sector |
| e. Amount of funds available | f. Technical support (through Sec. and Advisors) |
| g. Dissemination mechanisms | h. Capacity building mechanisms |
| i. Demand-driven Research Programme | j. Other: _____ |

Please elaborate:

19. Has your participation in ARTNeT activities or research programme implementation enhanced your influence and impact on national or regional level policies and practices?

☐ No ☐ Yes, to some extent ☐ Yes, to a significant extent ☐ Yes, to a great extent ☐ Don't know

Please elaborate:

20. How much resources should be allocated to each of the three strategic objectives of ARTNeT

	Current Allocation	Your proposed allocation:
Research Capacity building	25%	
Research programme implementation	40%	
Dissemination /Networking	35%	

Please elaborate:

Annex 3-B: Questionnaire for Individual Researchers

1. In which ARTNeT activity did you participate (please circle all that apply):

- A. ARTNeT short-term study
 - 1. in 2005 2. in 2006 3. in 2007
- B. ARTNeT Thematic study on Trade Facilitation
 - 1. in 2004-5 2. in 2005-6
- C. ARTNeT Regional study project
 - 1. in agriculture
 - i. Research team meeting
 - 2. in services
 - ii. Research team meeting
- D. ARTNeT Consultative Meeting of Policy Makers and Research Institutions
 - 1. Launch and First Annual Meeting (Bangkok, 2004)
 - 2. Second Annual Consultative Meeting (Macao, China, 2005)
 - 3. Consultative Meeting on Trade Facilitation (Bangkok, 2006)
 - 4. Third Annual Consultative meeting (Macao, China, 2006)
- E. ARTNeT visiting fellowship programme
- F. ARTNeT Capacity Building Workshop (CBW) on Trade Research
 - 1. CBW 2005 2. CBW2006 3. CBW2007
- G. Other (please specify): _____

2. Did your participation in this/these activity(ies) contribute to building your capacity in conducting trade and investment research?

☐ No ☐ Yes, to some extent ☐ Yes, to a significant extent ☐ Yes, to a great extent ☐ Don't know

Please elaborate:

3. Did you apply skills acquired through participation in this/these activities to non-ARTNeT research projects?

☐ No ☐ Yes, to some extent ☐ Yes, to a significant extent ☐ Yes, to a great extent ☐ Don't know

Please elaborate:

4. Did your participation in this/these activity(ies) result *(please check all that apply)*

a. in an ARTNeT publication: ☐No ☐Yes *(please specify below)*

- i. ARTNeT working paper
- ii. policy briefs
- iii. other

b. in a publication by your institution: ☐No ☐Yes *(please provide reference)*

c. In an external publication ☐No ☐Yes *(please specify below)*

- i. In ESCAP Trade and Investment Studies Series
 - ii. In ESCAP's Asia-Pacific Review on Trade and Investment (APTIR)
 - iii. In another publication *(please provide reference below)*
-

5. Did your participation in this/these activities enhanced your ability to participate in, collaborate on, or conduct regional studies *(e.g., through acquired contacts in governments and other institutions outside your country of origin during meetings)?*

☐No ☐Yes, to some extent ☐Yes, to a significant extent ☐Yes, to a great extent ☐Don't know

Please elaborate:

6. Do you find that participation in this/these activities enhances your credibility in trade and investment at the national/regional level, particularly in advising governments?

☐No ☐Yes, to some extent ☐Yes, to a significant extent ☐Yes, to a great extent ☐Don't know

Please elaborate:

7. List up to three benefits associated with participating in the network

-
-
-

8. Do you have any suggestions on how ARTNeT can better achieve its objectives of:

a. Building capacity in trade and investment research, preferably at the level of the institution (*Please write up to 2 suggestions below*)

-
-

b. Delivering quality and policy relevant research studies of interest to developing countries of the region (*Please write up to 2 suggestions below*)

-
-

c. Disseminate findings from these studies to policy makers and other relevant stakeholders (*Please write up to 2 suggestions below*)

-
-

9. How often do you visit the ARTNeT website (www.artnetontrade.org)?

<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, to some extent <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, to a significant extent <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, to a great extent <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know
--

a. Which online tool/resources do you find most useful on the website?
(*please specify*)

-
-

b. What other resources would you like to find on the website? (*please specify*)

-
-

Annex 3-C: Questionnaire for Government Focal Points and Officials

1. In which ARTNeT activity did you participate (please circle all that apply):

A. ARTNeT Consultative Meeting of Policy Makers and Research Institutions

1. Launch and First Annual Meeting (Bangkok, 2004)
2. Second Annual Consultative Meeting (Macao, China, 2005)
3. Consultative Meeting on Trade Facilitation (Bangkok, 2006)
4. Third Annual Consultative meeting (Macao, China, 2006)

B. ARTNeT Capacity Building Workshop (CBW) on Trade Research

1. CBW 2005
2. CBW2006
3. CBW2007

C. Other (please specify): _____

2. Please rate usefulness of the following ARTNeT activities/outputs? (Circle appropriate number: 1: most useful; 2: very useful; 3: useful; 4: somewhat useful; 5: not useful)

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| a. Policy briefs | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| b. Working papers | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| c. Regional Consultative Meetings | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| d. Regional Training Workshops on Trade Research | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| e. Other: _____ | 1 2 3 4 5 |

3. How often did you visit the ARTNeT website over the past 12 months?

- ☐ Twice a year or less ☐ Once every 3 months ☐ Once a month ☐ More than once a month

4. How often do you read ARTNeT Newsletters?

- ☐ almost never ☐ sometimes ☐ often ☐ always

5. How often do you read ARTNeT working papers?

- ☐ almost never ☐ sometimes ☐ often ☐ always

6. How often do you read ARTNeT policy briefs?

- ☐ almost never ☐ sometimes ☐ often ☐ always

7. Do you circulate ARTNeT working papers or policy briefs to others?

- ☐ Never ☐ Almost never ☐ Sometimes ☐ Often
☐ Always

8. How would you rate the usefulness and overall quality of ARTNeT policy briefs

<input type="checkbox"/> Not useful	<input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat useful	<input type="checkbox"/> Useful	<input type="checkbox"/> Very useful
-------------------------------------	--	---------------------------------	--------------------------------------

Please elaborate:

9. How would you rate the usefulness and overall quality of the Consultative meetings of policymakers and research institutions attended?

☐ Not useful ☐ Somewhat useful ☐ Useful ☐ Very useful

Please elaborate:

Does ARTNeT, through its output and activities, influence trade and investment policy making in your country?

☐ No ☐ Yes, to some extent ☐ Yes, to a significant extent ☐ Yes, to a great extent ☐ Don't know

Has ARTNeT contributed to fostering communications/interactions between the research community and the Government in your country and regionally?

☐ No ☐ Yes, to some extent ☐ Yes, to a significant extent ☐ Yes, to a great extent ☐ Don't know

Has ARTNeT contributed to building trade and investment research capacity in your country and other developing countries in the region?

☐ No ☐ Yes, to some extent ☐ Yes, to a significant extent ☐ Yes, to a great extent ☐ Don't know

Has ARTNeT facilitated access / dissemination of "homegrown" trade and investment analysis and studies to trade officials, policymakers and other stakeholders?

☐ No ☐ Yes, to some extent ☐ Yes, to a significant extent ☐ Yes, to a great extent ☐ Don't know

Overall, would you say that ARTNeT activities/outputs are useful to policymakers in the UNESCAP region, particularly those in LDCs to enhance their capacity to make better informed decisions on trade issues?

☐ No ☐ Yes, to some extent ☐ Yes, to a significant extent ☐ Yes, to a great extent ☐ Don't know

A key area of ARTNeT research during the first two years of operation was trade facilitation. Did you receive ESCAP Trade and Investment Studies No. 57, a synthesis of ARTNeT first year of research on trade facilitation? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, did you forward or circulate it to relevant officers working on trade facilitation issues, particularly trade facilitation negotiations? ☐Yes ☐No

How would you rate the usefulness of this publication for trade policymakers and negotiators?

☐Not useful

☐Somewhat useful

☐Useful

☐Very useful

Please elaborate:

How can ARTNeT better address the need of your country in:

a. Building capacity for trade and investment policy and facilitation research
(Please write up to 2 suggestions below)

-
-

b. Conducting trade & investment policy and facilitation research/analysis
(Please write up to 2 suggestions below)

-
-

c. Disseminating/facilitating access to trade & investment policy and facilitation research (Please write up to 2 suggestions below)

-
-

Annex 4: ARTNeT Field Visits Programmes

Field Visit to India

1. Background information

Purpose of the visit:

- To collect the views and perceptions of various ARTNeT stakeholders on the activities, operations and outputs of the network so far.
- To discuss what changes, if any, may be required to better meet the objective of ARTNeT and the needs of ARTNeT stakeholders during Phase II, in India and South Asia in particular.

Rationale for selection of this country for a field visit:

- RIS has been an active member of the network. Mr. Sachin Chaturvedi contributed three working papers as part of his participation in the ARTNeT regional studies conducted in Phase I. Mr. Prabir De contributed two. RIS staff also participated in all research training workshops. Finally, the experience of Mr. Nagesh Kumar and RIS in participating in various regional networks and projects is expected to prove useful in developing recommendations for Phase II.
- Mr. Biswajit Dhar from the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, a key advisor to ARTNeT, is based in Delhi.
- ICRIER, another ARTNeT member, is also based in Delhi.
- Various other institutions based in the India have expressed interest in ARTNeT and the visit is expected to help better understand their needs (or, alternatively, their ability to contribute to trade research capacity building in the region).
- India is a “best practice” country in terms of using research and analysis to support its policy and negotiating position. One of the purposes of the visit would be to clarify whether India and Indian institutes should/could be seen more as a resource (as opposed to a recipient of) for trade and investment research capacity building.

Method of information collection

- Semi-structured interviews, with list of questions and other relevant documents sent in advance of the visit.
- Informal one-on-one or small group brainstorming meeting, beginning with short briefing on ARTNeT.

Dates

26-27 April 2007

Visitors

- Mr. M. Supperamaniam will lead the visit. He is a former Ambassador of Malaysia to the WTO (2000-2004) and had been involved in trade and investment policy making and negotiations in Malaysia and ASEAN for well over a decade prior to that appointment. Since his retirement from civil service, he has served as a resource person, expert and/or advisors in various trade-related regional and global events and projects, facilitating the development of linkages between Governments, the research community and civil society

in general. He most recently led reviews of technical assistance programmes of WTO and UNCTAD.

- Mr. Yann Duval, Economic Affairs Officer, Trade Policy Section, Trade and Investment Division, UNESCAP and ARTNeT Deputy Coordinator will accompany and assist Mr. Supperamian and conduct introductory briefings on ARTNeT, as necessary.

2. Programme

Day 1 - 26 April

9:30 – 11:00 Meeting with RIS
Nagesh Kumar (Director), Sachin Chaturvedi, Prabir De

11:15 – 12:00 Meeting with ICRIER
Rajiv Kumar (Director), Amitendu Palit, Amita Batra

Lunch

14:30 – 16:00 Meeting with Ministry of Commerce,
Mr. V.L. Kantha Rao, Director
And other officials involved in trade and investment policy making

16:30 – 17:00 Meeting with Ministry of Finance,
Kameswari Subramaniam, Joint Secretary
Focus: need for trade facilitation research; evaluation of ARTNeT
TF work

Day 2 – 27 April

9.30-11.00 Meeting with IIFT
Biswajit Dhar, ARTNeT External Advisor

Lunch

13:00 – 14:00 Meeting with other relevant stakeholders
Abhijit Das, Rashmi Banga, UNCTAD India

Field Visit to Nepal

1. Background Information

Purpose of the visit:

- To collect the views and perceptions of various ARTNeT stakeholders on the activities, operations and outputs of the network so far.
- To discuss what changes, if any, may be required to better meet the objective of ARTNeT and the needs of ARTNeT stakeholders during Phase II, in Nepal in particular.

Rationale for selection of this country for a field visit:

- IPRAD has been arguably one of the most active members of the network in LDCs. It was involved in both the ARTNeT Thematic study on trade facilitation and the ARTNeT regional study on trade in services.
- The ARTNeT first visiting fellow is from Nepal at Thribuvan University
- The Government of Nepal has generally welcomed the ARTNeT initiative and provided useful input, particularly during the ARTNeT Consultative Meeting on Trade Facilitation and Regional Integration and the Second ARTNeT consultative meeting in Macao in 2006.
- Various other institutions based in Nepal have expressed interest in ARTNeT and the visit is expected to help better understand their needs (or, alternatively, their ability to contribute to trade research capacity building in the region).

Method of information collection

- Semi-structured interviews, with list of questions and other relevant documents sent in advance of the visit.
- Informal one-on-one or small group brainstorming meeting, beginning with short briefing on ARTNeT.

Dates

29-30 April 2007

Visitors

- Mr. M. Supperamaniam will lead the visit. He is a former Ambassador of Malaysia to the WTO (2000-2004) and had been involved in trade and investment policy making and negotiations in Malaysia and ASEAN for well over a decade prior to that appointment. Since his retirement from civil service, he has served as a resource person, expert and/or advisors in various trade-related regional and global events and projects, facilitating the development of linkages between Governments, the research community and civil society in general. He most recently led reviews of technical assistance programmes of WTO and UNCTAD.
- Mr. Yann Duval, Economic Affairs Officer, Trade Policy Section, Trade and Investment Division, UNESCAP and ARTNeT Deputy Coordinator will accompany and assist Mr. Supperamaniam and conduct introductory briefings on ARTNeT, as necessary.

2. Programme

Day 1 - 29 April

9:30 – 11:00 Meeting with IPRAD

Dili Raj Khanal(Chairman), Dilli Ram Upreti

11:30 – 12:00 Meeting with Central Department of Economics, Tribhuvan University

Nav Raj Kanel (Professor)

Lunch

13:00 – 13:30

14:30 – 16:30 Meeting with Ministry of Industry Commerce and Supplies

Prachanda Shrestha(Joint Secretary)

Purushottam Ojha (Joint Secretary)

Day 2 – 30 April

9:15 – 10:00 Meeting with SAWTEE

Navin Dahal (Director)

10:30 – 11:15 Meeting with Planning Commission

Pushpa Raj Rajkarnikar (Member)

11:15 – 12:00 Meeting with UNDP

Arun Adhikary(Head) and Deepak Shrestha

Lunch

13:15 – 14:00 Meeting with Women's Studies Program, Padma Kanya Campus

Indira sharma (Head), Chandra Badhra

14:15 – 15:00 Meeting with young researcher

Shiva Raj Adhikari, Rojan Bajracharya, Rajan Krishna Panta,

Bishnu Prasad Sharma and Satyendra Raj Subedi

(arranged by Nephil M. Maskay, Deputy Director,

Nepal Rastra Bank)

Field Visit to Philippines

1. Background Information

Purpose of the visit:

- To collect the views and perceptions of various ARTNeT stakeholders on the activities, operations and outputs of the network so far.
- To discuss what changes, if any, may be required to better meet the objective of ARTNeT and the needs of ARTNeT stakeholders during Phase II, in the Philippines in particular.

Rationale for selection of this country for a field visit:

- PIDS has been arguably the most active member of the network in Southeast Asia. PIDS focal point, Ms. Gloria Pasadilla, contributed two working papers and two policy briefs as part of her participation in the two ARTNeT regional studies conducted in Phase I. PIDS staff also participated in all research training workshops. Finally, the experience of PIDS in participating in various networks is expected to prove useful in developing recommendations for Phase II.
- The Government of Philippines has generally welcomed the ARTNeT initiative and provided useful input, particularly during the First and Second ARTNeT Consultative Meeting held in Macao in October 2005.
- Florian Alburo, U. of the Philippines, a key advisor to ARTNeT, is based in Manila
- Various other institutions based in the Philippines have expressed interest in ARTNeT and the visit is expected to help better understand their needs (or, alternatively, their ability to contribute to trade research capacity building in the region).

Method of information collection

- Semi-structured interviews, with list of questions and other relevant documents sent in advance of the visit.
- Informal one-on-one or small group brainstorming meeting, beginning with short briefing on ARTNeT.

Dates

8-9 May 2007

Visitors

- Mr. M. Supperamaniam will lead the visit. He is a former Ambassador of Malaysia to the WTO (2000-2004) and had been involved in trade and investment policy making and negotiations in Malaysia and ASEAN for well over a decade prior to that appointment. Since his retirement from civil service, he has served as a resource person, expert and/or advisors in various trade-related regional and global events and projects, facilitating the development of linkages between Governments, the research community and civil society in general. He most recently led reviews of technical assistance programmes of WTO and UNCTAD.
- Mr. Yann Duval, Economic Affairs Officer, Trade Policy Section, Trade and Investment Division, UNESCAP and ARTNeT Deputy Coordinator will accompany and assist Mr. Supperamaniam and conduct introductory briefings on ARTNeT, as necessary.

2. Programme

Day 1 - 8 May

9:00 – 9:30 Meeting with IDRC supported network coordinators based in Manila
Celia Reyes (Senior research fellow), PEP Network Coordinator

9:30 – 11:00 Meeting with PIDS
Joseph Yap (President), Gloria Pasadilla, Rafaelita Aldaba

11:30 – 12:00 Meeting with CBRD, De La Salle University
Tereso S. Tullao

Lunch

13:30 – 14:30 Meeting with ADB
Fan Zhai (Economist)

Day 2 – 9 May

12:30 – 14:15 Meeting with University of Philippines
Florian Alburo, ARTNeT Advisor on Trade Facilitation

15:30 – 16:30 Meeting with Department of Trade and Industry
Senior Undersecretary Thomas G. Aquino
Assistant Secretary Ramon Kabisigting
Assistant Director Jason T. Lao

Annex 5: Member and Researcher Surveys – Summary of Comments

Survey respondents were asked to elaborate on most survey questions. Unedited comments and elaborations received from members and individual researchers under each relevant question are compiled in this annex, as they provided useful insights during the review.

Comments from Member Research Institutions

A. Trade Research Capacity Building

1. Has your institution's involvement in ARTNeT contributed to building its trade research capacity?

(please check or highlight your answer)

☐ No ☐ Yes, to some extent ☐ Yes, to a significant extent ☐ Yes, to a great extent ☐ Don't know

Please elaborate:

- A number of our young researchers (seven) have been trained in trade-related areas. The institution has also carried out a number of researches under ARTNeT (four: 3 Working Paper; 1 Policy Brief). Colleagues have attended a number of Consultative Meetings (3), Workshops and other meetings (2) organized by ARTNeT.

- The trainings provided by the ARTNeT increases the capability of our junior researchers in conducting research related to trade issues. The contribution also comes from some research projects commissioned by the ARTNeT, which allow us to increase our knowledge on what had happened in Indonesian economy in terms of trade and industry issues.

- Areas covered, continuous feedback in improving methodology and institutional support contributed for this.

- The research questions raised by ARTNeT are usually very relevant. They help us focus our research time and effort on those issues that policymakers are currently grappling with.

Our institution has found ARTNeT to be a very important opportunity to access technical expertise, capacity development and collaborative research partnerships, especially through the combined access to UNESCAP, WHO, ITC and UNCTAD, along with other Asian research and policy institutions.

- The Center has participated in the preparation of a working paper on the movement of natural persons which was released last year. In addition, one of our fellows has participated in the WTO/ESCAP Capacity Building Workshop on Trade Research as a commentator.

- The institution could initiate work in new areas like trade facilitation, trade cost estimation and customs valuation which are important for WTO negotiations and also relevant for emerging RTAs in the region. The ARTNeT training programme has helped our faculty colleagues to catch up with analytical techniques in econometrics and international trade analysis.

- Upon joining ARTNeT, our department had no expertise in trade research at lower staff levels and only limited capacity at higher staff. The training of young staff through ARTNeT and their supervision by senior-level staff has contributed significantly to the trade research capacity of the Department.

– We have been involved with ARTNeT Trade Facilitation (TF) Research Programme, ARTNeT Annual Conference and have benefited from an ARTNeT scholarship for Lao PDR professor to do research at the institution on export competitiveness of Lao vs. Hong Kong.

2. Did staff(s) from your institution participate in the ARTNeT capacity building workshops on trade research held in 2005, 2006 and 2007? (please check or highlight your answer)

☐ No ☐ Yes, in one of them ☐ Yes, in two of them ☐ Yes, in all three workshops

2.a If Yes, has the participation of some of your staff in these workshops been an effective way to build trade research capacity of your institution?

☐ No ☐ Yes, to some extent ☐ Yes, to a significant extent ☐ Yes, to a great extent ☐ Don't know

Please elaborate:

- Staffs participating in the capacity building workshops have subsequently carried out research on similar themes on their return. The exposure that they had received has added to their (a) knowledge, (b) skills and (c) Policy-feel

- The institution sent our junior researchers that often have only little experience in conducting research. The workshops, thus, should increase their knowledge in doing research, and this was proven to be very useful. For example, they are now can conduct their own research on issues related to trade and often provides significant contribution to research led by the more senior researchers.

- Last year the focus was on trade gravity model and this year on CGE modeling. In both areas now our Institute is involved and training has helped a lot.

- It helped the one who participated. To a certain extent, it also helped the institution because the seminar lessened the amount of time our senior staff members need to train those working with them

- From this workshop we were informed on the research agenda of ARTNeT which enabled us to prepare a project proposal on Trade in Health Services.

- Three CBWs helped them in understanding medium to advanced level trade research methodologies and also the recent theoretical and empirical discourse on international economic issues. The course materials on applied research tools and techniques in the CBWs were user friendly and useful in carrying out technical research projects.

- Because of administrative problems with a young researcher traveling to Bangkok for the 2005 Workshop, staffs have only participated in the 2006 and 2007 workshops. As staff experience in trade modeling and in an appreciation of WTO practices was very limited, the workshops have been most useful in capacity building.

3. Did staff(s) from your institution participate in the ARTNeT research programme implementation (resulting in an ARTNeT working paper or other publication)? ☐ No ☐ Yes

3.a If Yes, did their participation in its implementation contributed to building trade research capacity of your institution?

☐ No ☐ Yes, to some extent ☐ Yes, to a significant extent ☐ Yes, to a great extent ☐ Don't know

Please elaborate:

- Articles published as ARTNeT Brief and Working Papers that were authored by our staff have contributed significantly to capacity building at the institution. Data, information and insights generated in the process of preparing these outputs benefited institution substantially.

- This is because the program implementation, through researchers commissioned by the ARTNeT, allows knowledge transfer from the senior researchers to the more junior researchers. Equally important, the program implementation allows us to increase our knowledge for our own trade-related research agenda.
- Not so far but we are in the process of implementing through publication of recent research on services trade liberalization in the form of working paper.
- The research programme of ARTNeT is highly complementary to the interests and programmes of our research institution. So, any seminars/ research activities along the same areas in which PIDS is interested in are helpful in broadening the knowledge base of our research staff, and as a consequence, are a help to PIDS.
- Trade research methodologies and access to trade research networks and resources
- As a result of our participation, the Center has been included in the list of institutions within the network. We have also received inquiries from various groups on the paper that we have prepared. In addition, members of our research team that prepared the paper are now included in the list experts in the country in the field of trade in services and movement of natural persons.
- The institution could contribute five working papers on various aspects of research themes selected in ARTNeT Phase I work programme, most of which were also released as discussion paper of our institution.
- Staffs have participated in one research study funded by ARTNeT. The comments received from ARTNeT were very helpful in revising the report from the study. The study has formed the basis for ongoing research.

3.b If Yes, how would you describe the technical support provided by the ARTNeT Secretariat and ARTNeT Advisors during implementation of the research project/study?

<input type="checkbox"/> Not useful	<input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat useful	<input type="checkbox"/> Useful	<input type="checkbox"/> Very useful
-------------------------------------	--	---------------------------------	--------------------------------------

Please elaborate:

- ARTNeT Secretariat and Advisors (Dr. Yann Duval, Dr. Patrick Low) were involved with the research works throughout the entire duration. Their comments, suggestions and valuable editorial interventions were most helpful.
- The technical support was useful in the sense that the ARTNeT provides critical comments on the research conducted by our researchers, which gives the researchers with some pressure to conduct their research more thoroughly. The ARTNeT, unfortunately, did not provide a more deep support, such as providing data, statistical access, or direct assistance regarding the methodology. While this sounds rather disappointing, it is worth noting however that our comment here is only based on very few researches we had done with ARTNeT.
- The institution is in the process of preparing policy brief. For that ARTNeT has provided guidance.
- The institution has found the ARTNeT Secretariat to be particularly sensitive to and supportive of the needs of institutes in least developed countries where trade policy and related research is critical.
- The Secretariat provided useful and relevant inputs for the improvement of the paper
- The ARTNeT Secretariat and Advisors played an important role in improvising the various submissions and also played an important role in establishing linkages with other key research organisations based outside the region like the OECD, UNCTAD, etc.

4. What kind of capacity building and technical assistance would you like to see in ARTNeT Phase II?
(please answer in the space provided below)

- We would like ARTNeT to continue the work they have been doing in Phase-I
- More follow-up training on the courses offered by ARTNeT on technical tools, modeling (GTAP etc.) with
- same participants who were exposed to introductory courses.
- Courses on multilateral and regional trade negotiations

The following are few suggestions we could think of:

- To continue the trainings in the workshop.
- To focus more on junior or young researcher as for the targeted participants for the training. Regarding this, it might be useful to impose the following two conditions for the training participants: 1) that the training will not allow the previous-year participant, and 2) age limit.
- Resourced placement of medium-long term trade research adviser at the institution
- Research skills workshops
- Partnering of stronger with weaker research institutes on collaborative research, skills transfer and capacity development
- Since our institution is building the publication capacity of our researchers/faculty members, we would like to see ARTNeT Phase II devise programs so that research outputs find outlets as publications in international refereed journals. Related to this ARTNeT II should strengthen the review and evaluation process of research outputs so these can be published in journals. It is also possible that ARTNeT II can establish a refereed journal on global trade issues.
- The ARTNeT Phase I was exploratory and very successful in highlighting sector specific requirement of capacity building and technical assistance in developing countries and LDCs. The ambit of Phase II should be extended to cover some of the emerging areas (e.g. production network and supply chain) where technical assistance is very much pivotal in strengthening the export capacity. Similarly, given low frictions of tariff up-front, more research emphasis should be give on NTBs those exist in many forms. There should be more regional projects on trade and investment issues on LDCs. Adequate attention should be given on trade in services sector (preferably WTO mode-wise) in context of developing countries and LDCs.
- I would like to see more of the same of what has been an excellent program.

B. Trade Research Dissemination and Networking

5. Has your institution's involvement in ARTNeT contributed to maintaining or increasing dissemination of your research to policymakers and other research institutions? *(please check or highlight your answer)*

☐ No ☐ Yes, to some extent ☐ Yes, to a significant extent ☐ Yes, to a great extent ☐ Don't know

Please elaborate:

- We find that our publications under ARTNeT being quoted extensively by experts and by many other researchers.
- This is through the publication of our research with ARTNeT in our working paper series
- We usually bring out the research findings to the media and at the same time there is close interface between our Institute and policy makers. Also our Institute is lucky in the sense that our experts sometime are appointed in the high position of government and they also try to disseminate

- Our website includes researches carried out by our staff, a few of them might have received partial funding from elsewhere, including ARTNeT. These research outputs are available for downloads
- Still early days on this; slowly building and deepening relationships with policy makers
- Our institution is actively involved in the projects of the Philippine APEC Study Center Network (PASCN) particularly in the preparation of papers on regional trading arrangements. We are involved in the Philippine Services Coalition.
- This is one area at which ARTNeT should focus more seriously. Apart from getting ARTNeT coordinators from the respective governments, the Secretariat should also get officials from the departments dealing with the issue under research like finance/customs in case of trade facilitation.
- The involvement has only been for young staff so far and the output has so far not led to much in the way of advice to policy makers. However, the basis for providing good advice in the future is being built.
- My TF research under ARTNeT was disseminated to policymakers at the UNESCAP/ITC High-Level Dialogue and through No. study 57 in Trade and Investment and also through WTO Asia Pacific Regional Trade Policy Course (RTPC)

6. Has your institution's involvement in ARTNeT facilitated networking and exchange of information with the following stakeholders (please check or highlight your answer):

a. With policymakers at the national and/or regional level

☐ No ☐ Yes, to some extent ☐ Yes, to a significant extent ☐ Yes, to a great extent ☐ Don't know

b. With researchers/ research institutions inside your sub-region (e.g., Southeast Asia, South Asia)

☐ No ☐ Yes, to some extent ☐ Yes, to a significant extent ☐ Yes, to a great extent ☐ Don't know

c. With researchers/ res. institutions outside your sub-region (e.g., Southeast Asia, South Asia)

☐ No ☐ Yes, to some extent ☐ Yes, to a significant extent ☐ Yes, to a great extent ☐ Don't know

Please elaborate:

- Our staff presented papers at regional seminars (New Delhi, Islamabad, Kathmandu, Colombo) by drawing on research undertaken under the ARTNeT. They also have presented papers and collaborated with institutions outside the sub-region (Geneva, Singapore) based on the research, for advocacy and policy influencing.
- Focusing on question 6b and c, we have not had experienced in collaboration work with other institutions in the region in doing some research. In our view, the aspect of collaboration between institutes within/outside the needs to be enhanced in the ARTNeT Phase II. This can be done, for example, with the ARTNeT choosing before hand which institutions to do a collaborative research. This is different with the current arrangement where the ARTNeT leaves to the institutions in approaching or coordinating between the institutions should they are interested in conducting a collaborative research.
- We are member of the SANEI based in Islamabad. In the seminar or workshop the research outcomes are discussed
- The regional meetings which researchers from various research institutions attend are very useful in establishing connections and contacts. ARTNeT has, indeed, greatly facilitated this process. As to national policymak-

ers, PIDS is quite central with regard to policy debates. We often organize fora in which we invite policymakers to attend.

- Our institution is actively involved in the projects of the Philippine APEC Study Center Network (PASCN) particularly in the preparation of papers on regional trading arrangements. We are involved in the Philippine Services Coalition.

The institution had a strong focus on South Asia and East Asia in its work programme and as a result had always been well connected with various other institutions in the region.

– Again, the TF research programme led to important outputs (see above) which were disseminated to policy makers and research institutions. The programme also allow for direct collaboration with researchers inside/outside East Asian region, in my capacity as ARTNeT Advisor.

7. Please rate usefulness of various dissemination activities/tools which should be emphasized in Phase II
(Please circle or highlight appropriate number: 1: most useful; 2: very useful; 3: useful; 4: somewhat useful; 5: not useful)

a. Electronic/online publications (Newsletter / Updates; e-Working Paper Series)	1	2	3	4	5
b. Paper/CD publications (Policy Briefs Series; Selected regional and short-term studies)	1	2	3	4	5
c. ARTNeT Trade Publication Database (and summary of ARTNeT publications by institutions)	1	2	3	4	5
d. ARTNeT Consultative Meetings of Policymakers and Researchers	1	2	3	4	5
e. Ad-Hoc Presentation of ARTNeT studies at relevant regional and global forum	1	2	3	4	5
f. Other (please specify : _____)	1	2	3	4	5

Please elaborate:

- The institution has benefited from various means of dissemination and found these extremely useful (access to electronic media online publications, availability of summary of ARTNeT studies). These have kept us updated re the regional developments.

- Automatic email notification when there are new uploaded materials, specially working papers and policy briefs

- Apart from uploading of publications on website, ARTNeT should also consider bringing out printed publications jointly with collaborating institutions. This would be more useful in disseminating about the research and also about the network.

- The ARTNeT database on RTA is very useful for researchers and policy makers. It can be more useful, if the scope of the database can be expanded further. In this database, RTA-wise information is provided, but details of agreements at the disaggregated product level are not reported. Inclusion of such information may improve the relevance of ARTNeT in policy making process. For this purpose ARTNeT can take the support from its Member institutions.

C. Trade Research Programme and Implementation

8. Did staff(s) from your institution participate in the ARTNeT research programme implementation (resulting in an ARTNeT working paper or other publication)?

☐ No ☐ Yes

8.a If yes, has your institution's involvement in ARTNeT contributed to maintaining or increasing its delivery of trade-related research?

☐ No ☐ Yes, to some extent ☐ Yes, to a significant extent ☐ Yes, to a great extent ☐ Don't know

Please elaborate:

- Colleagues have used new knowledge for their work in similar areas.
- As noted, we contributed by publishing the output of our research with ARTNeT through our working paper series. In addition, we also often communicate the findings of the research to some government officials through our network with them.
- We have links in our website to ARTNeT website. We have also reprinted as a Policy Note one Policy Brief from ARTNeT. The research output on agriculture trade in ASEAN was made available in the institution website.
- As mentioned earlier, our institution has increased its involvement and participation in projects of the Philippine APEC Study Center Network (PASCN) particularly in the preparation of papers on regional trading arrangements, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Philippine Services Coalition.
- As noted above, ARTNeT has served the very useful purpose of training young researchers in an area that has received little attention within the Economics Department previously. Hopefully, the capacity building will lead to much more trade-related research in the future.
- For TF research programme has allowed me to provide insight into TF implementation in Asia for trade officials studying on the WTO Regional Trade Policy Course.

9. How do you evaluate the overall quality of the research output of ARTNeT so far?

☐ Very high ☐ High ☐ Acceptable ☐ Low ☐ Don't know

Please elaborate:

- ARTNeT outputs focused on policy-oriented issues. The Policy Briefs were succinct exposition of real policy issues that were of interest, concern and use by policymakers.
- There is a need for more peer review and evaluation of the research outputs beyond the Secretariat.
- The ARTNeT TF Research programme assembled top TF researches from leading policy and university institutions and produced cutting-edge research results in Trade Facilitation for Asia.

10. ARTNeT research has been implemented on the basis of “competitive” calls for proposals based on a relatively open research programme framework. How effective has been this system in meeting the objectives of ARTNeT and for trade policy development (as opposed to a more directed research system)?

☐ Very effective ☐ Effective ☐ Somewhat effective ☐ Not effective ☐ Don't know

Please elaborate:

- We feel this is good, as it helps generate demand-driven research from partner institutions.

- The current research framework accommodates the direction of the research. However, we think the framework covers too many research themes. It would have been better, perhaps, if the framework deals with only one specific – but rather – general theme.

- I think both have merits. The competitive basis is useful especially when the secretariat does not know, a priori, the experts in specific areas. But if they do, the directed research lessens the search cost

- Need pro-active design of more genuinely collaborative research between stronger and weaker institutes with built-in and resourced trade research adviser and capacity development roles

- I believe in competition.

11. If your institute has not participated, or only on a very limited basis, in the call for proposals and overall ARTNeT research programme implementation, please explain what prevented a more active participation (please check all that apply)

☐ Lack of adequate human resources

☐ Amount of grants too low

☐ Trade (& investment) policy and facilitation are not a research priority

☐ Others (please specify: _____)

Please elaborate on what could be done to facilitate your participation:

- In our view, the amount of research funding needs to be increased. This would allow a wider space to conduct research that is based on fieldwork or primary data (e.g. survey). This is important because some themes or topics of the research are just too difficult to be implemented without fieldwork or primary-data collection, and one example for these is research related to services sector.

- Very often, our staffs who are usually involved with trade and investment research have multiple engagements. They often prioritize the research projects according to their interests as well as grant amount.

- Apart from increasing the research grants ARTNeT should also consider focusing on large and substantive research projects instead of too many small projects.

- The Economics department must build up its capacity in this area as it is so important for the Pacific island economies. However, being involved in ARTNeT is of great help in building such capacity.

– Larger grants of money for ARTNeT research are necessary to attract research scholars from Hong Kong.

12. The research programme in ARTNeT Phase I consisted of (1) a multi-year thematic study focusing on trade facilitation, (2) two regional research studies, and (3) a number of short-term studies. Should the same approach be taken in the Phase II? ☐ Yes ☐ No

12.a If yes, what should be the focus of the thematic study in Phase II? (please write below)

Please elaborate:

-Services sector, or issues related to the sector.

-Possibly on competition policy, investment policy, services liberalization

- How to minimize the ‘spaghetti/noodle bowl’ of WTO/FTAs and maximise/optimize benefits of multilateral/bilateral FTAs especially through regional/sub-regional mechanisms such as an East Asia Free Trade Agreement and economic community

- The interplay of regionalism and multilateralism in promoting global and regional trade.
 - The focus under Phase II could be on the ongoing negotiations, identifying the priorities for the region e.g. GTAS Mode-4, Agreement on Agriculture. But the format (1,2,3) mentioned above could be followed for these broad areas.
 - From the standpoint of landlocked least developed country like Nepal, focus should be on the additional constraints faced particularly due to high transaction cost. At the same time, countries like Nepal face problems due to high subsidy in the neighboring countries particularly in agriculture with competitiveness emerging as a major problem. In totality, in many instances trade policy lack coherency and also other macro policies some time contradict with the policy goals undermining the sustained growth or poverty reduction objectives. Therefore, one additional area very pertinent could be the macro policy coherence with focuses on trade policy and its ramification.
- In the Phase II, there should be more projects on first two categories (the multi-year thematic study and regional research studies). Instead of two, there should be at least three regional studies. At the same time, the number of short-term studies should be increased.

The possible themes which may be considered for future work are as follows:

1. Doha Round: Policy spaces; S&DT; TRIPs, Movement of Natural Persons.
2. RTAs: Complementarities between different RTAs; Sectoral Analysis across RTAs – Environment Issues, Services, etc., Regional Economic Integration in Asia., East Asia Summit, APTA, etc.
3. Standards: Value Chain Analysis
4. IPRs: Disclosure; IKS and TRIPs
5. Production Networking and Technological Change: Emerging production networking in Asia
6. Trade costs: Multilateral vis-à-vis regional
7. Macro Trade Issues : Trade and Employment.

- Constraints to supply response.

The lack of supply response to trade liberalization measures is a critical issues around the world and there has been little effort to study this issue.

D. Other Issues

13. Overall, has ARTNeT contributed to increasing the quantity, quality, relevance and dissemination of your trade-related research.

☐ No ☐ Yes, to some extent ☐ Yes, to a significant extent ☐ Yes, to a great extent ☐ Don't know

Please elaborate:

- ARTNeT's contribution has been significant. Institution has benefited in all of the following areas: (a) institution's human resource, (b) research activity and (c) networking with others.
- In some aspects, particularly the knowledge capacity building aspects (through training, workshops and research projects), ARTNeT has been very successful, but on others, particularly in fostering exchange information and collaborative research between institutions, the ARTNeT has not been very successful.

- the University's capacity to do much in this area has been very limited and ARTNeT is serving to build essential capacity.

- It has also helped my institutions with the WTO Secretariat in Geneva.

14. What are the strengths of ARTNeT relative to other research networks? (Please select up to 4)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| a. Secretariat support | b. Links with civil society |
| c. Link with Government | d. Links with private sector |
| e. Amount of funds available | f. Technical support (through Sec. and Advisors) |
| g. Dissemination mechanisms | h. Capacity building mechanisms |
| i. Demand-driven Research Programme | j. Other: _____ |

Please elaborate:

- ARTNeT Secretariat has been exceptionally good – always supportive, helpful, mindful of needs of civil society organizations from the LDCs like our institution.

- (a), (f), (h) For this University these are very supportive mechanisms at this stage.

15. What aspects of ARTNeT may need improvement in Phase II? (Please select up to 4)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| a. Secretariat support | b. Links with civil society |
| c. Link with Government | d. Links with private sector |
| e. Amount of funds available | f. Technical support (through Sec. and Advisors) |
| g. Dissemination mechanisms | h. Capacity building mechanisms |
| i. Demand-driven Research Programme | j. Other: _____ |

Please elaborate:

- ARTNeT should tap the cooperation of governments better thru: specific topics/suggestions they want research on; specific policy advice they want. Also, to attract more researchers, the amount of funds should be increased to about USD10,000 per project, with longer time period (6 months to a year) to undertake the research.

- As mentioned earlier, there are three important areas at which attention should be paid in the Phase II programme (a) links with the government should be improved like calling government officials from concerned departments apart from nodal contact points, (b) dissemination mechanism should be strengthened like brining out hard copies of publications and organized meetings outside Bangkok as well and (c) amount of funds and duration of studies should be enhanced to strengthen the quality of research output.

16. Has your participation in ARTNeT activities or research programme implementation enhanced your influence and impact on national or regional level policies and practices?

☐ No ☐ Yes, to some extent ☐ Yes, to a significant extent ☐ Yes, to a great extent ☐ Don't know

Please elaborate:

- The Government of Bangladesh often seeks inputs from the institution on policy related matters. Research carried out by the institution for ARTNeT (NTBs in agriculture, preference erosion) and also some of the ARTNeT publications prepared by others have been very helpful in this regard.

- Only to a limited extent because of the limited staff resources with expertise and interests in this area.

17. How much resources should be allocated to each of the three strategic objectives of ARTNeT

	Current Allocation	Your proposed allocation:
Research Capacity building	25%	
Research programme implementation	40%	
Dissemination /Networking	35%	

Please elaborate:

- We are fine with the structure of distribution. However, we strongly feel that given the success of ARTNeT in Phase-I, the total fund allocated for Phase-II should be substantially increased.

- The allocation we proposed was actually not much different to the current one. However, and this is very important, what we need to improve is not the allocation, but on how each objective is implemented effectively.

- The strength of ARTNeT should be in idea-generation. Hence, a major part of the funds should be directed towards producing those ideas. Networking/dissemination will be useful if you have worthwhile ideas.

Capacity building is ok, but its usefulness may be limited because it is directed to junior staffs who, most likely, are not going to stay in the same institution for a long period of time.

Comments from Individual Researchers

1. Did your participation in this/these ARTNeT activity(ies) contribute to building your capacity in conducting trade and investment research? (please circle or **highlight** one)

☐ No ☐ Yes, to some extent ☐ Yes, to a significant extent ☐ Yes, to a great extent ☐ Don't know

Please elaborate:

- My ARTNeT research activity dealt with FDI in the health sector focusing on Nepal. The research activity made me familiar (potential and problems) with country experiences especially in the health sector, and enriched my own knowledge and the quality of my interaction with domestic policy makers.

- Enabled to undertake research work relevant to the Institutes' Research Programme.

- Three CBWs helped me in understanding medium to advanced level trade research methodologies and also the recent theoretical and empirical discourse on international economic issues. The course materials on applied research tools and techniques (e.g. WITS, Gravity Modeling, ATPS, APTIAD, and CGE) in the CBWs were user friendly and useful in carrying out technical research projects.

- Yes, indeed. My participation in research work supported by the ARTNeT, and also networking opportunities offered by ARTNeT allowed me to enhance my skills and contribute to Bangladesh economy in trade related areas. I was of the Government Delegation to the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference of the WTO and my exposure under the ARTNeT has helped me to contribute more effectively to Bangladesh's negotiations during the Ministerial Conference.

- By participation in this activity (UNDP TF Consultative) , I had opportunities to share and learn more about the trade facilitation and its increasing role and contribution to develop trade and investment over the world in globalization era. By reflection to the case of Vietnam, we've just become the 150th member of WTO, I think trade facilitation is fundamental to develop Vietnamese trade and improve the competitiveness of our products/services and firms.
- The knowledge/training that I got is very valuable. I am very sure I will be applying it in my future research work.
- I did the part on Malaysia's financial services trade liberalization for the study involving Nepal, Bangladesh and Malaysia
- I had learn about GTAP model which very important to my research
- I was able to acquire a lot of information and my knowledge and skill capacity was upgraded a lot by these activities. I am pretty much confident in doing trade and investment research than earlier.
- Participation in the abovementioned study (Thematic Study on Trade Facilitation) was a very good experience. It helped me to get involved with issues related to Trade Facilitation in Bangladesh. Apart from this, the rigorous exercise that has been conducted to carry out survey on stakeholder groups, focus group discussions, and expert survey was quite interactive and informative. The necessity of in-depth involvement with issues of Trade Facilitation under the ambit of the WTO was there, and this has certainly contributed a lot to enhance my knowledge in the area.
- I have been able to sharpen my skills in trade research by using the gravity model learnt during the capacity building exercise.
- I have gathered knowledge on recent trade theory and trade research especially on GTAP which enhanced my capacity on trade and investment research.

2. Did you apply skills acquired through participation in this/these activities to non-ARTNeT research projects? (please circle or highlight one)

☐ No ☐ Yes, to some extent ☐ Yes, to a significant extent ☐ Yes, to a great extent ☐ Don't know

Please elaborate:

- As mentioned above, subsequent to my ARTNeT activities I had participated in an Asian Development Bank (Manila, Philippines) research project entitled "Study on Trade and Investment in South Asia" as a *Trade and Investment Policy Expert*. During my participation I had benefited to a significant extent by having developed skills from the above mentioned ARTNeT research project.
- Built on the existing knowledge about the WTO
- During January – February 2006, I carried out a research project as a visiting fellow at Korea Institute for International Economic Cooperation (KIEP), Seoul, entitled "Impact of Trade Costs on Trade in Northeast Asia", which later published as KIEP Working Paper. I used augmented Gravity Modeling to assess the impact of several trade barriers on trade flow in context of three Northeast Asian countries. This was an outcome of CBW 1 (2005).
- I carried out a research project on trade costs entitled "Estimates for Trade Costs in Asia", for Asian Development Bank Institute (ADB), Tokyo along with a group of researchers in 2006. The estimation was done with

the help of augmented Gravity Modeling in 10 Asia countries context. This was an outcome of CBW1 (2005) and CBW2 (2006).

- My work on “Duty-free, Quota-free Market Access for LDCs” has benefited significantly from my work on ‘Preference Erosion’ and ‘Special and Differential Treatment proposals submitted to the WTO’ which were carried out for ARTNeT.

- while I carry out other research projects on trade development of Vietnam, (for example: measures taking for export development of Vietnam), I think the skills acquired through the participation in the consultative meeting on trade facilitation (Bangkok 2006) help me much, especially in my proposal of measures to minimize the cost of transport, insurance, logistics, etc. in order to improve the competitiveness of Vietnamese export products

- Not yet, but I intend to include it in my research plan for next year.

- I have gone on to do some research on the impact of financial services trade liberation on economic growth. This will be published in academic journals soon.

- Trade liberalization review in the CBW2007 is a very useful background for me to do a further study in trade liberalization. Moreover, I intend to apply GTAP model to do a study.

- I had conducted a study on “Rules of Origin and Non-tariff Barriers in Agricultural Trade: Perspectives from Bangladesh and Cambodia” which I presented at ARTNeT meetings and events. ICTSD requested me to present the findings of this study at a Strategic Dialogue on Agriculture, Rural Development and Trade in East And South Asia (jointly organized by ICTSD, ITC and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Vietnam) held in Hanoi, Vietnam on 7-9 March 2007. Asian Productivity Organization (APO) asked me to make a presentation on the topic at their “Study Meeting on Implications of Trade Liberalization under the WTO-Doha Development Agenda for Small farmers and Agricultural Trade” held in New Delhi, India on 21-26 March 2007. As an organizer and resource person of the “Training Program on WTO and Bangladesh Trade Policy” (Foundation and Advanced Course), organized for economic journalists of Bangladesh, findings of the study were communicated.

PP - Now, I am trying to construct CGE model for analyzing the FTA in Laos which applied knowledge from training.

- ARTNeT project was my first international project since I joined my institute. It gave me a great confidence in these activities and I was able to apply the skills acquired to the non ARTNeT projects and other related activities such as writing reports, policy briefs, concept papers and so on.

- I have written a Policy Brief on Trade Facilitation which has been published by my institution (Centre for Policy Dialogue or CPD). Besides, currently I am doing my Masters degree in International Customs Law and Administration at the University of Canberra with AusAID Scholarship.

- I have used the techniques learnt in one of the research study of my institute.

- Though my organization did not work on CGE modeling but they usually work on trade policy research. So, I can apply my expertise in future research projects in my organization or any other policy research programme in Bangladesh.

3. Did your participation in this/these activities enhanced your ability to participate in, collaborate on, or conduct regional studies (e.g., through acquired contacts in governments and other institutions outside your country of origin during meetings)?

☐ No ☐ Yes, to some extent ☐ Yes, to a significant extent ☐ Yes, to a great extent ☐ Don't know

Please elaborate:

- As above mentioned, subsequent to my ARTNeT activities I had participated in an Asian Development Bank (Manila, Philippines) research project entitled “Study on Trade and Investment in South Asia” as a *Trade and Investment Policy Expert*.
- So far I have not collaborated with other participating institutes of the ARTNET programme but it has enabled the possibilities of such future collaborations.
- In 2006, I was a member of a team of experts worked on a regional project entitled “Role of Infrastructure in Reducing Trade Costs in Asia and Latin America”, supported by the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), Washington DC., and the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), Tokyo. I have already been working in the second phase (2007) of the aforesaid regional project along with a team of experts of Asian countries, headed by Prof. David Hummels, Purdue University.
- In doing a study on South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) I have sought and received data and information from researchers and government people whom I have met in Consultative Meeting in Macao.
- Through acquired contacts in other institutions outside my country during meetings
- Yes, because it provides empirical study supported with valid theory to estimate the impact of trade policy.
- Yes, moreover, my ARTNET working paper talks about the trade determinants of ASEAN to other countries. So, through the paper we have did I think we have conducted a regional studies.
- Based on the training program that I participated in, I was able to update myself on various trade issues along with application of research tools that will help us greatly in our research work, particularly in quantifying impact effects of trade policy changes.
- Since I participated in those activities, I have more friends from other countries and have more chances to discuss with other foreign researchers thus increases the chance to do a regional studies with others researchers.
- Successful completion of the study and appreciation, later on, in the form of “Featured Research” by the Global Development Network (GDN), has enhanced my confidence and encouraged me to conduct a study on Anti-dumping and other Defensive Measures in the Asia-Pacific Region.
- I am going to use CGE model to analyze the potential impact of WTO and AFTA accession on Lao economy. DN - I have still keep in touch and contact some friends whom I met in Bangkok, but we have not talked about collaboration or conduct regional studies. But for sure, I will try to propose any idea with them and I do hope that ARTNeT will facilitate and support it.
- However, currently my institution (I am part of it) have been doing some collaborative research with other research institute in Vietnam & Thailand and supported with IDRC. All those institutions, for sure, they also include in ARTNeT networks.
- Since I have participated in limited ARTNeT activities, I couldn't yet collaborate or conduct regional studies through acquired contacts. But, still I share ideas, views and information with those people which enhance my ability to participate in, collaborate on or conduct regional studies.

- I came across to know recent international trade theories along with various advanced trade policy issues, which has helped me to understand how to deal with regional issues and different trade related policy mechanism of regional sub groups.

- Currently, I am involved in agricultural trade in Greater Mekong Subregion.

4. Do you find that participation in this/these activities enhances your credibility in trade and investment at the national/regional level, particularly in advising governments?

☐ No ☐ Yes, to some extent ☐ Yes, to a significant extent ☐ Yes, to a great extent ☐ Don't know

Please elaborate:

- Yes when discussing at the regional level although I have not yet done so significantly in the domestic arena.

- Partial equilibrium modeling helped me assess potential trade in SAARC in view of SAFTA. I represented RIS in several joint study groups (mostly bilateral) where my exposure to ARTNeT paid substantially.

- The EU/US GSP study on Sri Lanka was much needed study and by undertaking the study, the Institute further enhanced its links with the Department of Commerce of Sri Lanka.

- Participation in Consultation Meeting has allowed me to more closely interact with the government trade policy makers. Later on, when trade policies were designed, I was sought out for policy advice and suggestions.

- I will be member of the Consultative Committee on trade information and the Consultative Committee on Development of Domestic Market of Ministry of Trade (Vietnam), therefore, that participation must have enhanced my credibility in trade and investment at the national/regional level, particularly in advising government.

- Yes, because it provides empirical study supported with valid theory to estimate the impact of trade policy. It's useful for feasibility study if the government want to implement a policy.

- Credibility yes, because the working paper I did for ARTNeT Working Papers, was read and studied by many students and governments advisers. Actually, I really don't know for sure how much they took credits from that paper, but I believe it was quite significant.

- Through training programs that ARTNeT offers, we, researchers are able to keep abreast of developments in trade policy evaluation tools and also learn these tools in a classroom atmosphere which for me is very effective. Through the knowledge that we derive from capacity building programs, we are able to apply more recent techniques in our research work and be more confident with our results.

- I am working at a government institute in Vietnam. I try to disseminate my knowledge learnt from these activities to my colleagues.

- I do believe that my successful completion of the ARTNeT study on Non-tariff Barriers has given me additional credibility to the Government of Bangladesh and act as a resource person in training programmes organized by the Tariff Commission, Ministry of Agriculture, and sharing the study findings with the Ministry of Commerce and also to an initiative who wants to increase Bangladesh-US trade by removing non-tariff barriers.

- Although I have not applied what I learned from ARTNeT yet, I am quite sure that in the future it will enhance my credibility in trade and investment at the national/regional level, especially in advising government.

Some of my colleagues have become consultant for ministry of trade. In my case, I've just have to wait for a moment before joining with them.

- As a young researcher with little experience, I should acknowledge these ARTNeT activities because these enhanced my credibility in trade at the national level to a great extent and at the regional level to some extent.
- Although I have written a Policy Brief (as mentioned earlier) which targets the policy making body in the government, I am not really sure how much acceptability that has earned to the targeted readership.
- Exposure to the new trade and investment theories has enhanced my expertise in policy making issues which adds on to my credibility to the Govt. as a policy analyst. The impact of trade and Investment in overall economy was elaborated in front of us through the GTAP model which has further increased our understanding.

5. List up to three benefits associated with participating in the network

- Networking with similar minded trade interested professionals in the region
- Development of appropriate tools for trade analysis
- Enhancement of policy advice and recommendations

- building research capacity
- extend the ability of doing academic research
- exchange experiences with other researchers from abroad

- Networking
- Exchange of ideas and thoughts

- An opportunity to do research and receive support.
- Networking with regional eminent experts and policy makers
- An opportunity to publish research work towards greater dissemination

- To share and learn from other participators
- To acquire and joint the network of accurate and update information in the field of trade and investment
- To enhance my ability and credibility in trade and investment at the national/regional level as well

- Building network with other institutions in Asia and the Pacific
- Enhancing skills on trade analysis
- Contributing more trade and investment analysis through ARTNeT publications.

- More chances to conduct researchers
- Improve of knowledge of trade and investment

- participation in capacity building programs
- possibility of getting funding for our research projects
- network that enables us to link up with other researchers and members

- know more in depth how negotiations on trade and services liberalization take place
- the collaborative work opens up other avenues for research particularly empirical work
- helps to build capacity in the institute that you represent

- More chances to discuss with other researchers
- Receive technical assistance from the network

- Improve research capacity in conducting study in trade field.
- Opportunity to conduct research as part of regional and broader focus
- Publishing and sharing research findings
- Networking
- Gain new knowledge on research
- Have more new network on research
- Access to research fund
- Improve my conceptual and analytical frameworks in international trade and economic cooperation
- To make relationships with other related institutes and persons
- Networking and access to research cooperation in international trade/investment and public policy
- Being more informed on future research requirements in area of trade
- Building networks and contacts
- Overall enhancement of trade knowledge in Asia Pacific Economies
- Increased knowledge capacity by acquiring additional knowledge
- Acquired contacts in government and other institutions
- increased credibility and confidence at local and regional level
- Opportunity to come in contact with knowledgeable resource persons representing various countries.
- The responsibility as a test of one's ability to meet deadlines and produce a quality research paper acceptable at the international level.
- Increases self confidence of the participant for future collaboration in projects or studies of similar kinds.
- Good information and data
- skill enhancement and sharpened research ability
- full knowledge of latest policy related developments
- deeper understanding of issues relevant to national level policy making
- I have gathered vast knowledge on recent international trade theories and trade research which helped me to expand my understanding on economics and trade related issues.
- I also came to know how these international conferences are organized and how the participants play active roles that ultimately bring changes in the national and global policy levels.
- I have got the opportunity to meet with renowned international scholars and brilliant participants from various countries.
- Enhance capacity through Capacity building workshop
- Update information or knowledge relating to international/regional trade
- Collaboration with other institutes through ARTNeT network

6. Do you have any suggestions on how ARTNeT can better achieve its objectives of:

a. Building capacity in trade and investment research, preferably at the level of the institution *(Please write up to 2 suggestions below)*

- Having the institution participate in trade and investment policy dialogue, especially at the domestic level.
- Having the institution host meetings and such related activities, especially at the regional level.

- provide more opportunity to junior researchers
- provide short-term training to researchers on the specific topic related with trade
- Continue capacity building workshops
- Provide grants to researchers from ARTNET institutes to participate in training programmes related to trade and investment (i.e.) GTAP course, etc.
- It should support research when the network is also linked with Government bodies. Government can follow up and seek assistance from the trained researchers.
- Reorient bit more to given special coverage / focus to LDCs and landlocked countries
- More training workshops for young researchers
- More incentives for young researchers to publish
- Keep the contacts and information exchanges regularly
- Specific intensive training workshop/seminars for junior researchers of the institutions in the region
- An internship program at ESCAP or other member research institution to join research team on trade and investment issues
- Co-research between institutions
- Exchange program of researchers among institution
- More seminars for institutions on topics such as trade liberalization negotiations
- Research into various aspects of liberalization and impact of these on economic growth
- Facilitating collaborative research involving many institutes and cross-country studies
- Organizing training workshop for different level of researchers
- More research grant
- Providing more excellent specific resource persons
- Technical assistances or research fellows (add the numbers granted)
- Financial support for research
- Need more focus on small island economies
- Need more funding for research on trade issues of small island economies
- Conduct more workshops considering the existing capacity gaps of developing countries
- Help developing countries to assess their trade constraints and to prioritize their trade related technical assistance needs
- Giving opportunity to young researchers through institutes based on competitive selection procedure
- Candidate based selection procedure rather than institution nominated system should be adopted
- Expand the capability of the participant by instructing them to write a paper based on their acquired knowledge.
- Expose the participants to the real life real situation through use of case studies.
- Days of workshop should be extended; Combine theory with more examples

b. Delivering quality and policy relevant research studies of interest to developing countries of the region *(Please write up to 2 suggestions below)*

- Identify hot and relevant topic through discussion with policy makers at national or international conferences multilateral [ASEAN, BIMSTEC, SAARC, WTO].
- Interlink with leading regional (or developed country) institutions to ensure quality of research (such as to guide or to evaluate etc.)
- The research must base on the economic condition of each country
- the research paper can illustrate current issues and recommendation must base on the finding
- Continue Consultative meetings with invitees from participating research institutes and policy makers working on trade and investment issues in each of the ARNET countries as well as private sector participation to ensure that the research is demand driven
- A strong group of reviewers should support the researchers
- Let there be a small ARTNeT in every country in ESCAP to support quality research
- Availability of higher amount of research grant
- More collaborative research (with well-known experts
- Research and Development of specific studies in trade development and investment according to the reality of each country member in the region
- Enhance the initiatives of research institutions in the region to propose relevant research projects in its proper interests but that benefit all the comparative countries members
- Conducting more research and join-research by each member country
- Establishing a forum of middle level officers among countries, in order to exchange experience, then ARTNeT researchers carry out the role as resource person
- Let research ideas come from government or business sectors.
- Liberalization and negotiations regarding regional versus FTAs
- Does liberalization of trade and services trade lead to good governance in developing countries. Best practices of corporate governance are essential for developing countries to benefit from liberalization which can eventually lead to economic growth and convergence of countries in terms of income per capita.
- Call for more participation of young and competent researchers of the region
- Sending study briefs to researchers and institutions in the regions
- Developing research plans and programs in a consultative manner
- Arranging competition for sponsoring small research studies
- Discussion that involve all research institute in regions about the recent and hottest research topic that related with current issues faced by the regions.
- Hold a conference including more participants
- Help developing countries to assess and prioritize their research requirements
- Giving technical assistance to conduct researches
- Organise expert group meetings in the countries (on which a study is to be conducted) with the relevant stakeholders.

- Give opportunity to participants to write about the country's policy mechanisms in terms of trade and investment in national and regional issues.

- ARTNeT can help to increase technical expertise on WTO issues among young researchers so that developing countries can perform better in the WTO ministerial conferences.

- Strengthen relationship with government official

- Collaboration with the leading research institutes of the country

c. Disseminate findings from these studies to policy makers and other relevant stakeholders (*Please write up to 2 suggestions below*)

- Having national institute produce interactive workshop/seminar for result dissemination; this would also include national level economic journalists.

- Publish result either as a paper or as a article at a national level academic journal and/or newspaper.

- The suggestion must bas on the finding in the studying

- Provide reasonable recommendation base on the finding

- Continue ARTNET policy briefs and distribute them through electronic mail to a compiled list of policy makers and other relevant stakeholders in each of the ARTNET participating countries

- Disseminate research findings through participating institute's publications and websites

- Convert working paper into edited book, or thematic book.

- Encourage more research papers and monographs

- Advertise (not in popular terms) about ARTNeT publications in UNCTAD, World Bank, OECD, and at country level (for example, at EPW in India)

- Taking more energetic steps to establish links between partner institutions and ARTNeT websites

- More wider dissemination of ARTNeT publications

- It'd better establish in each country member of the network one relevant focus point and all findings from these studies will be disseminated through these focus points to policy makers and other relevant stakeholders

- Enhance the capacity and capability of available ARTNeT network in order to make it more comfortable and profitable and Disseminate findings from these studies to policy makers and other relevant stakeholders through that network.

- More publications not only to research institutions but also government agency and academic institution.

- Conducting workshops/ seminars for stakeholders in each country.

- Hotline service for research findings, because sometimes many high level government officers prefer to hear rather than to read research reports.

- SMS (short message system) hotline where people or government officers can easily ask any kind of related research of a topic they are interested in.

- Along liberalization issues, trade related competitiveness indicators must be developed to enable policy makers to make useful decisions in negotiations.

- Call for more participation of young and competent researchers of the region

- Sending study briefs to researchers and institutions in the regions

- Organizing joint Dialogues
- Policy Features in addition to the existing policy briefs and publishing those features in newspapers (and archiving those in the ARTNeT website)
- Provide more national and regional workshop
- Joining research between academic researcher and policy makers
- More often Seminar or conference that invites the policy makers
- The research report is more directed to make policy implication & write it as easy as possible with few technical complicated so that the policy makers can easily understand it
- Publication of an ARTNeT Journal
- Assist (Financially and technically) to disseminate the research findings
- Help to organize workshops and seminars on delivering research findings
- Organise seminars and conferences, in collaboration with the partner organizations, in the countries of the regions inviting a wide range of policy makers.
- Organizing conferences, seminars and brainstorming session with all stakeholders
- Building relationship with different stakeholders through workshop, seminar and dialogue to make them aware and increase their consciousness about the particular issues.
- ARTNeT can distribute the research paper written by the participants among the national govt. of different countries so that govt. can take proper reform measures based on the participants' recommendations.
- Invite policy makers to the meeting or conference
- Workshops organised by the leading research institutes of the country

7. How often do you visit the ARTNeT website (www.artnetontrade.org)?

☐ No ☐ Yes, to some extent ☐ Yes, to a significant extent ☐ Yes, to a great extent ☐ Don't know

b. What other resources would you like to find on the website? (please specify)

- Country disaggregated statistics on trade and investment
- Country specific trade and investment policy.
- WTO information
- trade negotiation
- Menu driven database on ESCAP countries on economy, trade etc. [just think we are getting access to WDI, DOTS, WITS, etc.]
- A list of journals (with or without access), database (COMTRADE / PCTAS), etc.
- Regional up-to-date trade related database
- Fresh news/comments on trade and investment achievements or failures of the countries in the region and over the world
- Organize an online forum on the website where will occur all debates and arguments of economists, scientists, etc.
- Economic statistics (particularly on trade and investment) from each member country
- Related documents on any trade agreements of each member country

- Detail Data on trade and investment of developing countries
- Databases
- Trade News
- Long series data-base on trade & investment or raw data/other material used in every ARTNeT research projects so that we can use in for other purpose/expand the study
- Some site on trade research issues done by ARTNeT participating institutions
- International Food and Agricultural Trade Policy Council (IPC)
- International Agricultural Trade Research Consortium (IATRC)
- Trade statistics in depth.
- Concrete trade policy related developments of the countries in the region
- literature survey of all the scholastic works done on trade, investment and other issues in the region
- Updated data on various trade related issues from Govt. website
- Recent development on important economic and econometric models.
- GTAP
- Tariffs of trading commodities

8. Please write below any other comments and suggestions you may in relation to ARTNeT

- ARTNeT activities have been effective to enhance research capacity in term of trade and investment (for policy makers and academics). But, in my view, ARTNeT has not received due exposure. I feel that this may be the case because of the narrow focus on academics and/or policy makers. In other words, I feel that there should be interlink with media to expose the activities and output to the general public which would influence politician and policy makers – thus analogous to a bottoms up approach.
- If possible provide more opportunity for researchers from less developing countries like Lao PDR.
- There should be more and more short term studies in ARTNeT Phase II. ARTNeT should come out with an endowment fund to support travel grant. Researchers from developing countries who are working on LDCs in Asia and Pacific (e.g. Lao) do not need much financial support to carry out the study. But, a travel grant for traveling to LDCs would be very useful in completing the study on time. ARTNeT should also increase the numbers of visiting fellows. Perhaps, a joint collaboration with regional think tanks and organizations will create lot of opportunities for ARTNeT researchers to work on cross-country subjects.
- ARTNeT has indeed been able to bridge a gap that was there. Trade related researchers and research institutes in the ESCAP region are now able to interact with each other more frequently since they are also more aware of demands from policy makers in the area of trade. ARTNeT should receive more funds so that it can expand and enhance its activities during Phase-II.
- Extend its network to more research institutions and academic institutions
- Increase the number of participants for capacity buildings and giving chances for new participants from member countries each year.
- Provide more databases and links on the website (particularly detailed data on trade in services)
- Perhaps ARTNeT should improve their popularity in universities level.
Maybe it could help ARTNeT to better achieve its objectives.
- I was involved in only one ARTNeT training and I consider it one very useful activity and for that I am very grateful to ARTNeT. The training was very well organized, our speakers are experts in their respective fields. I learned a lot from our lecturer, Roberta Pierremartini, she's very effective, very inspiring. I am really hoping to have some time in order to submit a proposal (applying the knowledge that I gained) to ARTNeT in the near future (late this year or early next year).

- This is a very useful source of information on trade liberalization issues and the role of WTO in enabling countries to participate in the ongoing rounds of negotiations.

As an academic I have some interest in this area and therefore the site is useful in that regard. But for policy makers, the policy briefs are very useful and if the policy makers are also researchers

UT- ARNeT would do well if it continues its virtual and inclusive membership policy which would perform the role of a breeze (by organizing collaborative research, training program, hosting and linking related documents) and catalyst (encouraging its members to take part and disseminate research findings and skills by supporting members to participate in related events).

- ARNeT is very good program, I have really learned many new knowledge from ARNeT. Thank you very much. I am looking forward to joining more activities.

- No, I think other things have been good and should be continuously maintained.

- ARTNeT is a well organized good trade research network that gives helping hand in terms of funding, technical assistance and guidance, capacity building and etc. to a number of organizations in Asia Pacific Region. I wish all the success in future as well.

- Keep on doing good job

- The duration of the capacity building exercise should be enhanced to allow participants to have a comprehensive grasp of the techniques learnt

- It was very interesting workshop for me as student of Economics as well as a participant from a developing country. I enjoyed this workshop very much. I came across to know many things from academic viewpoint. Besides, I have learned how to make social networking with international community who came from different countries and different culture.

- Invitation to capacity building

- Provide short-term or long-term project

Annex 6: ARTNeT Field Visits – Main Feedback and Suggestions

India

- Top RIs from large or middle-income developing countries need mainly access to advance technical expertise and reviews
 - Lots of research funds in India; at the extreme, Indian institutions may be disqualified from receiving ARTNeT funds
 - Indian institutions may be seen increasingly more as partners rather than as beneficiaries
 - Possibility and willingness to organize ESCAP / Indian Institutions ARTNeT activity, particularly tapping Indian TA funds
 - If the goal is to enhance CB and networking, more importance should be allocated to VISITING SCOLARSHIPS from weak RIs to stronger RIs – problem of output quality from these scholarships acknowledged however
 - IIFT willing to coordinate with Indian Gov. on hosting ARTNeT fellows (follow-up with India res. Rep.)
 - Indian institutions and governments outside Delhi need support and information
 - Expand ARTNeT membership beyond Delhi institutions
- Gov. focal points needs to be BRIEFED ON THEIR ROLES repeatedly and regularly and take on the role of dissemination to state gov. and other agencies beyond ministry of commerce
 - Policy briefs and other ARTNeT material useful, especially for state level gov.
- Gov. is subcontracting many studies to RIs. Problem is monitoring and proper review of the studies in terms of quality
 - Gov. officials need technical training, NOT so much on CONDUCTING research but for/on CONTRACTING/ MONITORING/ CONTROLLING research
 - ARTNeT could provide an independent review mechanism for Gov. contracted research – a quality/certification label?
 - Ensure that institutions working on ARTNeT research do so in collaboration with gov. – Gov. should vet country studies?
- ARTNeT useful in making institutions who do not work together increase collaboration – unique network in that regard; also in terms of connecting with policymakers (or trying to)
 - RI unlikely to take the lead as coordinator of regional study (even if they do, will be difficult to control others)
 - Good balance of short-term and longer-term studies
 - Thematic meetings more useful than annual meetings
- Advisors should have a clearer and more important role in coordinating and controlling the regional research teams from the beginning, also taking responsibility for final output
 - Gov. need to be involved early in the regional studies; involve them in research team meeting
- UNCTAD India may be a good resource for ARTNeT and for models for country case studies; need to be kept informed and invited
- On TRADE FACILITATION: ARTNeT research has been useful but now need to go beyond WTO; more research on SPECIFIC measures and how some of the best practices/measures need to be adapted to developing country environment; the issue of SECURITY also increas-

ingly important and need to highlight the US trying to shift the burden of control to developing countries; this is an important trend and there are costs involved.

Nepal

- ARTNeT is a useful new approach networking research centers with an intergov. Institution as Secretariat
 - can be useful for ESCAP / other international org. involved in checking their information / analyzes against those of local research knowledge centers
 - Ex: growth in Nepal NOT expected to be 4% but 2.8%
- Process for selection of proposals is professional and well implemented
- Annual consultative meetings are useful; workshops very useful [Gravity very good; GTAP missing CGE basics]
- Two issues
 - Amount of resources (funding) is too small --- very small
 - Time to conduct research is not enough (not enough time to submit initial report)
- Media is potentially interested in ARTNeT studies, particularly regional studies, so this would need to be taken as an opportunity
- LDCs SHOULD BE HIGH PRIORITY and studies should focus on
 - Additional constraints by LDCs
 - Implementation issues for LDCs of any agreements
 - Policy synchronization of landlocked and transit countries, including misalignment resulting from Donor conditionalities imposed on LDCs but not their neighbors (e.g., ADB conditionality on subsidies imposed on Nepal but not India resulting in loss of competitiveness)
- ARTNeT clearly increasing interest on trade and investment issues
- Workshops need to have follow-ups or have linked between them
 - Ensure workshop material is applied
- ARTNeT policy briefs and trade publication database are useful for Gov.
 - May increase civil society in trade
 - ARTNeT RI should PROMOTE / CONNECT ARTNeT to other institutions and take on dissemination within the country – Gov. officials will NOT do it.
 - One institution as focal point or LEAD institutions for others in the country
- ARTNeT should also COMPILE T&I Research done at the national level so a truly complete inventory is available → very useful for gov. officials (currently done only at the regional level for ARTNeT members)
- Three dissemination levels
 - Among univ.
 - Among gov. agencies (bureaucrats)
 - Among parliamentarians (political) → need to reach planning commissions / development commissions
- Key issues for ARTNeT phase 2
 - TBT / SPS harmonization and MRAs; Trade Facilitation
 - Pakistan – India facilitation
 - Visa facilitation / mvt. of persons
 - Trade and Poverty: how do we create employment? How do we link trade and poverty? Trade and SME? ... country specific studies needed

- Research training workshops are also useful for civil society orgs
 - Research assistant level training: how do you collect and conduct basic analysis
 - Mid-level and senior-level
 - ARTNeT could be TECHNICAL RESOURCE PROVIDER
 - Trainers and reviewers (on-demand)
- Generally more effective to train research institutes as very small number of gov. officials doing research and/or inclined in doing so.
- Involvement of the Media should be given higher priority
- Create a distinct SUPPORT TRACK for Junior researchers (small grants: USD 1000 / grant)

Philippines

- Info on PEP, another IDRC network
 - Research grants are larger and for national team studies (USD 17,000 up)
 - Short-listed are presented at annual conferences
 - PEP funds study visits to Laval Univ. (6-8 weeks) in addition to short workshops
 - Dissemination mainly done at National level (USD 1,800 per Workshop)
 - No policy briefs
 - Fees paid to res. Persons USD 1000 to 2000 + expenses
- PIDS is a government agency connected to but independent of NEDA
- Link with policy makers should be the responsibility of the MEMBERS (more than the Secretariat)
 - Sec. can establish policies and incentives when providing funding to encourage dissemination (national workshop; nomination of a gov. official contact/reviewer...)
 - ARTNeT has indirect but real influence on policy makers (mainly because researchers participating in ARTNeT do participate in other activities and interact with policy makers)
- ARTNeT may need to focus on fewer studies/sub-topics and go in-depth
 - Topics that repeatedly come up
 - Regional Integration (harmonization/consolidation of FTAs? APEC is working on model measures – how do you measure impact – how do you make product lists?)
 - Trade Facilitation / Integrated Border Management (need to look at experiences in implementing specific TF measures)
 - Important to keep working in this area since ARTNeT has already done some good work there and to build credibility
 - WCO says there is a need
 - Need to have MORE COUNTRIES per study (increase regional relevance and credibility)
 - More directed research necessary to ensure more participation from LDCs (e.g., proactively seek involvement of LDC institutions in regional studies)
 - Give more important roles/responsibilities to Advisors
- ADB does not have an extensive trade research programme (0.5 research staff)
 - ERD (working on trade distortions in agriculture)
 - OREI may be the most relevant unit within ADB
 - ADBI activities/objectives more linked to ARTNeT

- Currently working on TRADE COSTS
 - Opportunity for Joint training: possible topic “Building product lists for Trade Liberalization and evaluating impacts”?
- Two challenges faced by ARTNeT are the natural gap between researchers and government officials (different language) and the very wide geographic coverage (different priorities)
- PRIVATE SECTOR should be involved as a dissemination channel, as they sometime have big influence on high level policy makers. Involve a non-academic in the research team to remove prejudice.
- Gov. Officials should be trained in understanding the methodologies (not on how to implement them)
- Need to EXPLAIN to Gov. officials how to use ARTNeT outputs: a WP on “An effective use of ARTNeT Working Papers or the Trade Pub. Database”?
- ARTNeT policy briefs are useful and have been used as input in gov. documents
 - Need an ARTNeT brief on Textile
- ARTNeT meetings have been sought provoking but many presentation and studies only reporting of facts (provide no strategic direction of clear policy recommendations)
- ARTNeT website useful for gov.: online access to all documents; even easier than to get documents from the local research institutes themselves
- If ARTNeT outputs are mainly for policy makers, then more efforts need to be made in formatting output that will appeal to them and convince them they are useful
 - Annual ARTNeT meeting involving policy makers should be a showcase
 - Clearly separate between capacity building aspect and the reporting/informing of policy makers to ensure effectiveness.